



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	
<b>Name</b>	Mr. Steve Rothert,
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	American Rivers
<b>Primary Address</b>	432 Broad Street, , , Nevada City, CA, 95959
<b>Primary Phone/Fax</b>	530-478-5672 Ext.
<b>Primary Email</b>	srothert@americanrivers.org

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	
<b>Name</b>	Mr. Steve Rothert,
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	American Rivers
<b>Primary Address</b>	432 Broad Street, , , Nevada City, CA, 95959
<b>Primary Phone/Fax</b>	530-478-5672 Ext.
<b>Primary Email</b>	srothert@americanrivers.org



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title</b>	Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gary Owls
<b>Brief Description</b>	To remove the threat of development from Ackerson Meadow through acquisition, protection, and restoration of this keystone habitat, and through this initial action, jump start a movement to protect all remaining vital habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra.
<b>Total Requested Amount</b>	65,500.00
<b>Other Fund Proposed</b>	.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	65,500.00
<b>Project Category</b>	Acquisition Projects
<b>Project Area/Size</b>	n/a
<b>Project Area Type</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?</b>	No
<b>Is this application related to other SNC funding?</b>	No

#### Project Results

Fee title

<b>Project Purpose</b>	<b>Project Purpose Percent</b>
Habitat	
Water Quality	



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

<b>County</b>
Tuolumne

<b>Sub Region</b>
South Central





**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

#### PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

##### Other Grant Project Contacts

Name:	Steve Rothert,
Project Role:	Authorized Representative
Phone:	5304785672
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	srothert@americanrivers.org

Name:	Steve Rothert,
Project Role:	Day-to-Day Responsibility
Phone:	5304785672
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	srothert@amrivers.org

Name:	Bill Lee,
Project Role:	Fiscal Manager
Phone:	2023477550
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	blee@americanrivers.org

Name:	District Tuolumne Utility,
Project Role:	Water Agency 1 Contact
Phone:	2095325536
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	cprunchak@tuolumneutilities.com

Name:	Craig Pedro,
Project Role:	County Administration
Phone:	0000
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	cao@tuolumnecounty.ca.gov



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

## PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

### Project Location

**Address:** Located on the Access Road to Hetch Hetchy, , , Yosemite National Park, CA, 95389 United States  
**Water Agency:** Tuolumne Utility District  
**Latitude:** 375014.46  
**Longitude:** 1195014.46  
**Congressional District:** n/a  
**Senate:** n/a  
**Assembly:** n/a  
**Within City Limits:** No  
**City Name:**



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

## PROJECT BUDGET INFORMATION

### Direct

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Staff-American Rivers Restoration Scientist	75	74.97	5,622.75
Staff-American Rivers Senior River Scientist	120	41.45	4,974.00
Staff-American Rivers Monitoring Specialist	160	25.23	4,036.80
Staff-American Rivers Project Administrator	40	33.52	1,340.80
Travel-AR staff travel	3000	.50	1,500.00
Travel-Per Diem	10	50.00	500.00
Subgrants-Pacific Forest Trust including due diligence	250	76.00	19,000.00
Subgrants-Institute for Bird Populations	70	80.00	5,600.00
Materials-clip boards	4	25.00	100.00

# SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY

**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

Materials-field data sheets	100	.10	10.00
Equipment-RELM/BK RP6100 two way radios	2	359.00	718.00
Equipment-Hip Waders	4	79.58	318.32
Fees-Pacific Forest Trust certified general real estate appraiser	1	17,000.00	17,000.00

<b>Total Direct</b>	60,720.67
<b>Direct Detail</b>	Equipment-Hip waders off by one cent on hard copy

## Indirect

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Performance Measure-American Rivers Senior River Scientist	60	41.45	2,487.00

<b>Total Indirect</b>	2,487.00
<b>Indirect Detail</b>	

## Administrative



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Expenses- Management and administration	1	2,292.32	2,292.32

<b>Total Administrative</b>	2,292.32
<b>Administrative Detail</b>	

<b>Budget Grant Total:</b> 65,499.99
--------------------------------------



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

#### PROJECT OTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

##### Other Support for the Sierra Nevada

<b>Estimated Total Amount of Resources Leveraged</b>	
--	--



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

## PROJECT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Regulatory Requirements

---





**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

## PROJECT TIMELINE INFORMATION

### Project Timeline

Milestone/Activity:	Finalized Workplan and Budget (Task 1)
Description:	
Expected Date:	06/30/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Signed Subcontracts/grants with Project Partners
Description:	(Task 1)
Expected Date:	07/30/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Biannual Financial and Performance Reports
Description:	(Task 1)
Expected Date:	12/15/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Final Report (Task 1)
Description:	
Expected Date:	05/31/2012
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Contract with Appraiser (Task 2)
Description:	
Expected Date:	07/30/2011
Deliverable:	True

Milestone/Activity:	Finalized Appraisal (Task 2)
Description:	
Expected Date:	11/30/2011
Deliverable:	False



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

Milestone/Activity:	Contract for Due Diligence Work (Task 3)
Description:	
Expected Date:	10/31/2011
Deliverable:	False
Milestone/Activity:	Finalized Due Diligence Report
Description:	
Expected Date:	03/30/2012
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Final Assessment Protocol and MP (Task 4)
Description:	
Expected Date:	07/30/2011
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Final Meadow Assessment Technical Memo (Task 4)
Description:	
Expected Date:	04/15/2012
Deliverable:	True



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

## PROJECT PEER REVIEWER INFORMATION

### Reviewers

--



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

## UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Checklist
Table of Contents
Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Articles of Incorporation (Non-Profit Organization)
Bylaws (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
IRS Tax Letter (Non-Profit Organizations Only)
Project Summary
Evaluation Criteria Narrative
Detailed Budget Form



**Submitted Date:** 9/23/2010 2:34:47 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 427

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> American Rivers
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mr. Steve Rothert

---

Performance Measures
Environmental Setting and Impacts
Project Location Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects
Letters of Support

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

## Application Checklist for Category Two Grants

Project Name: Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls

Applicant: American Rivers

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

1. ☒ Completed Checklist (EFN: Checklist.doc,.docx,.rtf, or .pdf)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc,.docx,.rtf, or .pdf)
3. ☒ Application Form (EFN: AppForm.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: ArtInc.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5a. ☒ Articles of Incorporation [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: ArtInc.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5b. ☒ Bylaws [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: Bylaws.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
- 5c. ☒ Tax Exempt Status letter from the Internal Revenue Service [501(c)(3)s only] (EFN: ProjSum.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
6. ☒ Project Summary (Two Page Maximum) (EFN: ProjSum.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
7. ☒ Evaluation Criteria Narrative (EFN : EvalCrit.doc, .docx, .rtf, .pdf)
8. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx)
9. ☒ Performance Measures (EFN: Perform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf)
10. ☒ Environmental Setting and Impacts (EFN: EnvSetImp.docx, .docx, .rtf, .pdf))
11. ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
12. ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
13. ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
14. ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (ENF: Photo.jpg, .gif)
15. ☒ Land Tenure (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
16. N/A Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgrmnt.pdf)
17. N/A California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (EFN: CEQA.pdf)
18. N/A National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (If applicable) (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
19. N/A Regulatory Requirements / Permits (ENF: RegPermit.pdf)
20. ☒ Demonstrations of Support (EFN: DOS.pdf)
21. N/A Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (**only** for time-sensitive projects up to \$50,000) (EFN: EOrequest.pdf)

## 2. Table of Contents

### **Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls**

Application Form_____	1
Authorization to Apply _____	3
Articles of Incorporation _____	4
Bylaws _____	11
Tax Exempt Status_____	21
Project Summary _____	22
Evaluation Criteria Narrative _____	24
Detailed Budget Form _____	35
Performance Measures _____	37
Environmental Setting and Impacts _____	38
Project Location Map_____	40
Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) _____	41
Topographic Map_____	42
Photos of the Project Site_____	43
Land Tenure _____	44
Leases or Agreements _____	45
California Environmental Quality Act _____	46
National Environmental Policy Act _____	47
Regulatory Requirements / Permits _____	48
Demonstrations of Support _____	49
Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (not applicable) _____	54

**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION FORM  
CATEGORY TWO GRANT**

Rev. January 2010

*Complete all applicable items on both pages of form.*

<b>1. PROJECT NAME</b> Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls	<b>2. REFERENCE NUMBER</b>  														
<b>3. APPLICANT (Agency name, address, and zip code)</b> American Rivers 432 Broad Street Nevada City, CA	<b>4. APPLICANT TYPE:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization														
<b>5. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE</b> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-style: italic;"> <span>Name and title – type or print</span> <span>Phone</span> <span>Email Address</span> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Steve Rothert, California Regional Director, (530)478-5672, srothert@americanrivers.org <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.															
<b>6. PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-style: italic;"> <span>Name and title – type or print</span> <span>Phone</span> <span>Email Address</span> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Steve Rothert, California Regional Director, (530) 478-5672, srothert@amrivers.org <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.															
<b>7. PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative or Day to Day Administrator)</i> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-style: italic;"> <span>Name and title – type or print</span> <span>Phone</span> <span>Email Address</span> </div> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mr. Bill Lee, Chief Operating Officer, (202)-347-7550, blee@americanrivers.org <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.															
<b>8. FUNDING INFORMATION</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">SNC Grant Request</td> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: right;">\$ 65,500.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;"><i>(Up to \$250,000)</i></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Funds</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 0</td> </tr> <tr> <td> Total Project Cost</td> <td style="text-align: right;"> \$ 65,500.00</td> </tr> </table>		SNC Grant Request	\$ 65,500.00	<i>(Up to \$250,000)</i>		Other Funds	\$ 0	 Total Project Cost	 \$ 65,500.00						
SNC Grant Request	\$ 65,500.00														
<i>(Up to \$250,000)</i>															
Other Funds	\$ 0														
 Total Project Cost	 \$ 65,500.00														
<b>9. PROJECT CATEGORY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Project Planning	<b>9a. DELIVERABLES (Select <u>one</u> primary deliverable)</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Data</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map	<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit	<input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance		<input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Data														
<input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan														
<input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map														
<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit														
<input type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance															
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)															
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)															
<b>10. PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION</b> <i>(Include zip code)</i> Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy. Ackerson Meadow is just minutes from the Big Oak Flat West Entrance of Yosemite Park, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389															
<b>11. Latitude and Longitude</b>  37 50' 14.46" W 119 50' 14.46 N															
<b>12. COUNTY</b> Tuolumne County	<b>13. CITY</b> <i>(Is project within city limits? If so, which one?)</i> The project is not within city limits.														



**14. NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION:***Name:* Tuolumne Utility District*Phone Number:* (209)532-5536*Email address:* cprunchak@tuolumneutilities.com*Name:**Phone Number:**Email address:***15. CEQA OR NEPA DOCUMENT TYPE** (if applicable)☐ Notice of Exemption☐ Negative Declaration☐ Environmental Impact Report☐ Finding of No Significant Impact☐ Environmental Impact Statement☐ Joint CEQA/NEPA Document**16. State Clearinghouse Number****17. Executive Officer Authorization**

Is an EO Authorization being requested:

☐ Yes☒ No

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.



Signed (Authorized Representative)

9/13/2010

Date

Steve Rothert, California Regional Director  
Name and Title (print or type)



September 7, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Authorization to submit application *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to thank you for giving American Rivers the opportunity to submit a proposal for our work on *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. The Board of Directors of American Rivers supports this project and authorizes the submission of this grant application for funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for appraisal and pre-acquisition tasks.

My thanks again.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Whitney  
Chair of the Board of Directors

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
Business Regulation Administration  
CORPORATION DIVISION

WASHINGTON



**This is to certify** *that the pages attached hereto constitute a full, true, and complete copy of* CERTIFICATE AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC., AS RECEIVED AND FILED JANUARY 18, 1974-ANNUAL REPORT, FILED FEBRUARY 16, 1983.

*as the same appears of record in this office.*

**In Testimony Whereof,**

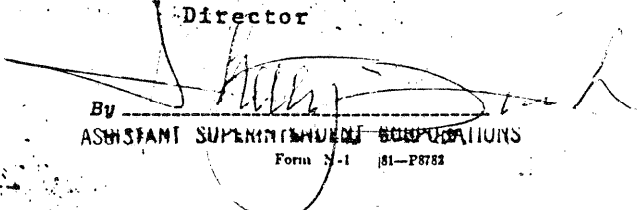
*I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed, this*

*the* 23rd *day of*

NOVEMBER 83  
A. D. 19

Carol B. Thompson

Director

By   
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT CORPORATIONS

Form 3-1 81-P8782

Government of the District of Columbia  
MARION S. BARRY, Jr., Mayor  
SEPTEMBER 1981

OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D. C.

Corporation Division  
Sixth and D Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20001

740148

CERTIFICATE

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY* that all provisions of the District of Columbia  
Non-profit Corporation Act have been complied with and ACCORD-  
INGLY this Certificate of Incorporation

is hereby issued to the THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL, INC.

as of the date hereinafter mentioned.

Date January 18, 1974

PETER S. RIDLEY,  
*Recorder of Deeds, D. C.*

*Alfred Goldstein*  
Alfred Goldstein  
Superintendent of Corporations

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC. JAN 18 1974

FILING FEE  
INDEXING FEE

16.00

2.00

FILED

BY 164

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more, acting as incorporators of a corporation, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation pursuant to the District of Columbia Non-Profit Corporation Act (D.C. Code Sec. 29-1001 et seq.):

First: The name of the corporation is The American Rivers Conservation Council, Inc.

Second: The period of duration is perpetual.

Third: Said corporation is organized for the promotion of social welfare as such term is used within Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, through the promotion of programs leading to the preservation and protection of America's remaining wild and scenic rivers and their immediate environs.

Fourth: The corporation is to be divided into two (2) classes of members. The designation of each class of members, the qualifications and rights of the members of each class, and the conferring, limiting or denying of the right to vote will be as provided in the By-laws.

Fifth: The manner in which Directors shall be elected or appointed shall be provided in the by-laws.

Sixth: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Seventh: In the event of dissolution of the corporation or final liquidation, the assets of the Corporation shall become the assets of the Environmental Policy Center, Inc.; if the Environmental Center, Inc., is not in existence at such time, then the Board of Directors shall make such distribution of assets as it deems appropriate, or as may be required by statute.

Eighth: The address of the initial registered office and the name of the initial registered agent of the corporation is: The American Rivers Conservation Council, Inc., 325 "C" Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003. (Brent Blackwelder)

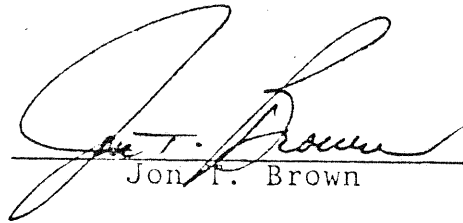
Ninth: The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors is four (4), and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial Directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors be elected and qualified are:

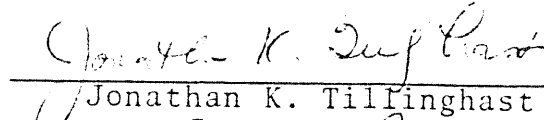
Brent Blackwelder	324 "C" Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003
Deane Hall	300 Third Street, N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002
L. H. Fremont	816 Vannes Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

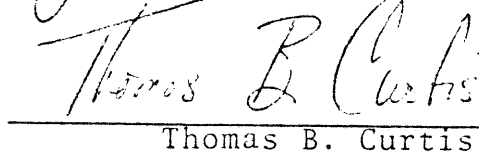
Tenth: The name and address of each incorporator is:

Jon T. Brown	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006
Jonathan K. Tillinghast	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006
Thomas B. Curtis	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006

January 18, 1974

  
Jon T. Brown

  
Jonathan K. Tillinghast

  
Thomas B. Curtis

Verification

District of Columbia) ss:

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me JON T. BROWN, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires August 14, 1974

Verification

District of Columbia) ss:

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me JONATHAN K. TILLINGHAST, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

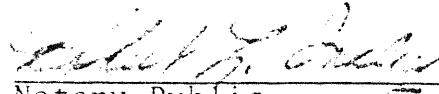
  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires August 14, 1974

Verification

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me THOMAS B. CURTIS, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator

of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires



# ANNUAL REPORT FOR FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS

DUE APRIL 15, 1983

Filing Fee \$ 1.00  
 Penalty -----  
 Interest -----  
 Total \$ 1.00

DUPLICATE COPY TO BE RETAINED BY CORPORATION  
 SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FILING FEES, PENALTIES, ETC.  
 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO D. C. TREASURER  
 NO RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED; YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RECEIPT  
 MAIL REPORT TO: OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D. C. Corporation  
 Division, Annual Report Section, 6th and D Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Indicate if corporation is  
☐ Domestic Profit  
☐ Foreign Profit  
☒ Non-Profit

1. Name of Corporation  
American Rivers Conservation Council  
 2. Organized under the laws of (insert  
 District of Columbia, State or Country)  
D.C.  
 3. If a foreign corporation, the address of its principal office in the state or  
 Country where organized

4. Name of registered agent and address of registered office in the District of  
 Columbia (Do not make change of agent on this form)  
Brent Blackwelder  
American Rivers Conservation Council  
317 Penn. Ave. S.E. D.C. 20003  
 5. Brief statement of business or affairs conducted in the District of Columbia  
Education and lobbying on behalf  
of Free Flowing Rivers  
 6. If a domestic profit corporation, the address including street and number,  
 of principal office in the District of Columbia

7. Name and address, including street and number of directors and officers

	NAME	ADDRESS
Director	<u>Liane Russell</u>	<u>130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830</u>
Director	<u>Tom Arnold</u>	<u>212 East Riding Dr., Carlisle MA 01741</u>
Director	<u>Skip Luken</u>	<u>2800 Adams Mill Rd. NW DC 20009</u>
President	<u>Brent Blackwelder</u>	<u>317 Penn. Ave. SE DC 20003</u>
Vice President	<u>Rafe Pomerance</u>	<u>2034 Allen Place NW DC 20009</u>
Secretary	<u>Mike Priesnitz</u>	<u>1371 Albany Ave., St Paul MN 55108</u>
Treasurer	<u>Mike Fremont</u>	<u>816 Van Ness Dr., Cincinnati OH 45246</u>

## DOMESTIC PROFIT CORPORATIONS ANSWER ARTICLES 8 AND 9 (Foreign corporations disregard articles 8 and 9)

8. Aggregate number of shares corporation has authority to issue

NO. OF SHARES	CLASS	SERIES	PAR VALUE PER SHARE OR WITHOUT PAR
------------------	-------	--------	---------------------------------------

9. Aggregate number of shares issued

NO. OF SHARES	CLASS	SERIES	PAR VALUE PER SHARE OR WITHOUT PAR
------------------	-------	--------	---------------------------------------

## FOREIGN PROFIT CORPORATIONS ANSWER ARTICLES 10 THRU 13 (Do not apply to domestic corporations)

10. Date organized

11. Term of existence authorized

☐ perpetual ☐ Limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years

12. Is corporation in good standing in State in which organized?

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Name of corporation used in the District \*

\*(Add "corporation," "company," "incorporated," "limited" or an abbreviation thereof, if same does not appear in corporate name, otherwise answer same as 1.)

Date 03 - Feb. 1983

By Pat Munoz (signature)

CORPORATE SEAL

Its ☐ Pres. ☐ Vice Pres. ☐ Sec'y  
☐ Asst. Sec'y ☐ Treas. ☐ Asst. Treas. if  
☒ Receiver or Trustee if non-profit corporation

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 MARION S. BARRY, JR., Mayor  
 Form RD-C44-45 & RD-C54  
 A fee of \$5.00 will be charged  
 for dishonored checks  
 June 1979

(Over)

FILED  
 FEB 16 1983  
 By Pat Munoz



## **Bylaws**

### ***AMERICAN RIVERS, INC.***

**Adopted, March 12, 1988  
(As amended through May 30, 2009)**

#### **Article I. Name of the Organization**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be American Rivers, Inc.

#### **Article II. Purpose**

**Section 1.** The mission of American Rivers is to protect and restore rivers and the variety of life they sustain, for people, fish and wildlife. The Corporation is organized exclusively for not-for-profit educational and charitable purposes as such term is used in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

#### **Article III. Offices**

**Section 1.** The principal office of the corporation shall be in the District of Columbia. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or outside the District of Columbia as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the Corporation may require from time to time.

#### **Article IV. Membership**

##### **Section 1. Members**

Members of the Corporation shall be non-voting and members shall not have the power to elect the Corporation's Board of Directors, to amend its corporate governing documents, or to otherwise vote on corporate matters. Any person may become a non-voting member by paying annual membership dues and completing a membership application. There shall be no limit to the number of non-voting members. Non-payment of annual dues forfeits membership.

## **Article V. Board of Directors**

### **Section 1. Number of Directors**

The number of Directors shall be no less than 18 and no more than 36 members, as determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Election of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election of Directors of the Corporation. A Director may be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, pursuant to the following procedures:

- A. The names of potential candidates may be submitted to the Board Governance Committee at any time. The Board Governance Committee shall review the qualifications of proposed candidates, and attest that all candidates approved and proposed by the Committee for election have the necessary qualifications to be members of the Board of Directors, are aware of the roles and responsibilities of Board membership and have agreed to uphold those duties.
- B. Candidates elect shall be invited to participate and vote immediately upon election.

### **Section 3. Removal of Directors**

The Board may remove any officer or director at any meeting. A two-thirds (67%) vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors shall be required to remove a Director of the Corporation.

## **Article VI. Terms of Office of Members of the Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to the office for a term of three years, in a manner such that approximately thirty-three percent (33%) of the members are subject to election annually. Each term shall begin on the day of the Corporation's annual meeting and shall expire on the day of the annual meeting three years thereafter. The term of Directors elected at a meeting other than the Annual Meeting shall be calculated as if they were elected at the Annual Meeting in the calendar year in which elected. For the purposes of this Article, a "year" is defined as the period between two successive annual meetings.

**Section 2.** No Director may serve more than three successive three-year terms. A person who has formerly served as a Director may be elected again to the Board of Directors provided there has been a period of at least one year between the expiration of the former term(s) and the new term.

**Section 3.** Notwithstanding the limitation of terms described in Section 2, a Director may be elected to serve successive one-year terms as Chairperson of the Board and may serve an additional year as a member of the Board of Directors following the expiration of his or her term as Chairperson.

## **Article VII. Duties of the Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall determine the policy and have fiduciary responsibility for the activities of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election and removal of members of the Executive Committee, for the appointment and removal of members of the Board Governance Committee and Audit Committee, and for the election of additional Directors of the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the selection and removal of the President and shall be responsible for setting the compensation of the President.

### **Section 2      Conflict of Interest**

Directors shall serve the corporation with the highest degree of undivided duty, loyalty, and care and shall not profit personally from their positions as Directors. The Corporation shall have a conflicts of interest policy. Each member of the Board of Directors shall review the policy and sign an acknowledgement whereby the member agrees to abide by the provisions of said policy.

Any contract or other financial transaction in which a Director has a direct or indirect material financial interest must be approved by the Board of Directors. No such transaction shall be approved unless the relevant interest is fully disclosed, the interested Director does not vote, and the Board or the Executive Committee authorizes the transaction in good faith by vote of the remaining Directors.

## **Article VIII. Voting Rights**

**Section 1.** Each member of the Board of Directors, including the Chairperson, shall be entitled to one vote. Each vote shall be equal in weight to that of any other Director on any issue that is placed before the Corporation for voting.

## **Article IX. Quorum**

**Section 1.** Thirty-three percent (33%) of current members of the Board of Directors shall comprise a quorum.

## **Article X. Compensation for Expenses**

**Section 1.** By resolution of the Executive Committee, the Directors may be paid their expenses, if any, for their attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee or for any other duly called Committee meeting of the Corporation.

Subject to the foregoing, members of the Board of Directors shall not be compensated for performing the normal duties of a Board member, such as attending Board meetings and participating on Board Committees.

## **Article XI. Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Corporation shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the Board of Directors may elect any other officers it deems advisable, including one or more Assistant Secretaries.

The term of office shall be one year. Officers shall hold office until successors have been duly elected and qualified, or until death, resignation, or removal.

## **Article XII. Election of Officers**

**Section 1.** Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors shall appoint a Board Governance Committee consisting of at least three (3) persons.

**Section 3.** The Board Governance Committee shall select candidates for nomination to the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Executive Committee to be voted upon by the Corporation at the Annual Meeting. If a vacancy occurs in any of the officer positions stated above between Annual Meetings of the Corporation, the Board Governance Committee shall appoint a new officer until a new candidate has been duly elected and qualified at the next Annual Meeting.

**Section 4.** The Board Governance Committee shall present a list of candidates for nomination to the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large members of the Executive Committee to the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting. There shall be at least one candidate nominated for each of these offices.

**Section 5.** In addition to the candidates for offices presented by the Board Governance Committee at the Annual Meeting, other candidates may be placed in nomination at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 6.** Election to any office shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting in the presence of a quorum and the matter shall be carried by a majority vote of the Directors present.

## **Article XIII. Duties of Officers**

### **Section 1. Duties of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall be responsible for the (a) notice of meetings; (b) presiding over meetings, and; (c) the appointment of all other positions, including Board Committee positions, not specifically provided for elsewhere in these bylaws; and (d) performing all other duties as from time to time may be necessary. The Chairperson is authorized to enter into any contract and/or execute any document on behalf of the Corporation.

### **Section 2. Duties of the Vice Chair**

In the absence of the Chairperson, or in the event that he or she is unable to perform his/her duties, the Vice Chair shall fulfill the duties of the Chairperson.

### **Section 3. Duties of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall ensure that minutes of the meetings are kept and have oversight responsibility for the archives and history of the Corporation, including minutes of all past Board and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary is authorized to certify legal documents on behalf of the Corporation.

### **Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer has the responsibility to manage the Board's review of and actions related to key financial matters, including the annual budget and to work with the chief financial officer to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the Board on a timely basis.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Assistant Secretary**

The Assistant Secretary, if the Corporation elects any, shall have the same duties and responsibilities as the Secretary and shall be empowered to act as Secretary if the Secretary is unavailable.

## **Article XIV. Meetings of the Corporation**

### **Section 1. Annual Meeting**

The Corporation will hold at least one meeting of the Board of Directors annually. Each Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at a time set by the Executive Committee for the purpose of electing Directors and for the transaction of such other

business as may come before the meeting.

**Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors, for any purpose or purposes, may be called by the Chairperson or the Executive Committee, unless otherwise prescribed by statute.

**Section 3. Place of Meeting**

The Executive Committee may designate any place, either within or outside the District of Columbia, as the place of the Annual Meeting. If no designation is made, the place of the meeting shall be in the District of Columbia.

**Section 4. Meetings By Conference Telephone**

Any meeting of the Corporation may be conducted by conference telephone or by any other means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another. Such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**Section 5. Notice of Meeting**

Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given in the manner prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors. Except as noted below, if the Board has not passed such a resolution, notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting, and in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) and not more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting, at the direction of the President to each member of the Board of Directors. Such notice may be written or oral, may be given personally, by first class mail, by facsimile, by e-mail, by telegram, or by phone, and shall state the place, date and time of the meeting. If notice is given by oral communication or by phone, it must be confirmed promptly by first class mail, by facsimile, by e-mail, or by telegram. Notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the U.S. Mail with postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the member, or when delivered by fax, e-mail, or telegram to the last known fax number, e-mail address, or address of the member.

In the event of an emergency, as determined jointly by the Chairperson and President, such as, for example, in the event of an attack upon the United States, an emergency meeting may be convened without notice. Any action taken at such emergency meeting shall be effective until ratified or rejected by the Board of Directors at its next annual or special meeting.

**Section 6. Rules of Procedure**

Rules of parliamentary procedure, as identified by Roberts Rules of Order, shall govern all meetings of the Corporation unless contrary to the rules of procedure of these By-Laws, in which case the By-Laws shall govern.



## **Section 7. Action Without a Meeting**

The Board of Directors may conduct any of its affairs without a meeting if all of the Directors entitled to vote on the relevant subject matter give signed, written consent to the action on a document which sets forth the specific action to be taken.

## **Article XV. Committees**

### **Section 1. Required Committees**

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, a Board Governance Committee of the Board of Directors and an Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Executive Committee**

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected, and the Committee shall operate, in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI. It shall be the function of the Executive Committee to act for the Board of Directors as may be required in between Board meetings. A member may be elected to or removed from the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the membership of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting.

### **Section 3. Board Governance Committee**

The members of the Board Governance Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article XII. The Committee will have the functions specified in Article XII, will nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors, and will generally be responsible for Board governance matters

### **Section 4. Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee shall oversee the selection, hiring, and monitoring of the outside auditor, review the auditor's report and submit the audit report to the full Board. The Audit Committee will also review the annual filing of the IRS Form 990 on behalf of the Board prior to its submission to the IRS. The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article VII.

### **Section 5. Compensation Committee**

The Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the organization's Compensation Committee. The Committee shall periodically review and recommend to the Board of Directors any salary and fringe benefit adjustments for



the President. The Committee shall periodically review the performance of the President and make a report to the Board of Directors. The Committee shall periodically receive the President's recommendation regarding salary and fringe benefits of any employee that meets the criteria for classification as a "key employee" based on the IRS's definition in the Form 990. The Committee will follow the Corporation's Compensation Policy to determine the appropriate salary for the President and other key employees of the organization.

**Section 6. Establishment of Other Committees**

The Board of Directors may establish such other committees as it deems necessary to conduct its business in an efficient manner, and shall determine the functions of such other committees.

**Section 7. Rules**

Each committee may adopt rules for its own governance not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

**Article XVI. Executive Committee**

**Section 1. Selection, Number, Tenure, and Qualifications**

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election of members of the Executive Committee. The number of members of the Executive Committee shall be up to nine (9) in number. Members of the Executive Committee must be members of the Board of Directors to qualify for election.

**Section 2. Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held from time to time as warranted.

**Section 3. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at the request of the Chairperson or any three members of the Committee.

**Section 4. Notice of Special Meetings**

Notice of a special meeting shall be given at least three (3) days previously thereto by written notice, e-mail, fax, or telephone, and shall include the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called. The participation of a member of the Committee in a Special Meeting shall constitute waiver of notice.

**Section 5. Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 6. Manner of Acting**

The act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Executive Committee.

**Section 7 Minutes**

The Secretary shall ensure the preparation of minutes describing any actions of the Committee and shall distribute them to the Board of Directors within a reasonable time following the meeting.

**Article XVII. Management**

**Section 1. President**

Subject to overall review by the Board of Directors, the business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the President elected by the Board of Directors. The President is authorized to hire staff and other personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of the organization and to incur and make payment for expenses necessary to permit efficient operation of the Corporation.

**Section 2. Contracts**

The President is authorized to enter into contracts and sign legal documents on behalf of the Corporation and to designate such signatory authority to other employees. Finally, the Board of Directors may authorize additional officers or representatives to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument on behalf of the Corporation; such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 2. Loans**

The President is authorized to contract for loans upon authorization by the Executive Committee. Such authorization shall be confined to specific instances. In no event shall any loan be made by the Corporation to any officer, director or member.

**Section 3. Checks, Drafts, Etc.**

All orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the Chairperson or President, or by any employee designated in writing by the President, provided that orders for the payment of money exceeding an amount to be determined by the Chairperson and the President shall require the signature of two authorized persons. From time to time, the Board of Directors may authorize additional representatives of the Corporation to sign checks or orders for the payment of money by resolution of the Board. Such resolution

shall specify the extent of the authority granted.

**Section 4. Deposits**

All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks or other depositories as the President shall select upon review by the Executive Committee.

**Article XVIII. Fiscal Year**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year shall be July 1 - June 30.

**Article XIX. Corporate Seal**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall provide a Corporate Seal.

**Article XX. Indemnification**

**Section 1.** The Corporation shall indemnify its Directors, Officers, and committee members to the fullest extent permitted by the law of the District of Columbia.

**Article XXI. Amendments**

**Section 1.** These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, upon thirty days advance written notice prior to such meeting.

**Article XXII. Effective Date**

**Section 1.** These bylaws shall become effective upon adoption by the Directors of the Corporation.

*By majority vote of a quorum of the voting members and Directors of American Rivers, Inc.,  
these bylaws were approved and adopted the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

**Internal Revenue Service**

**Date:** May 6, 2004

American Rivers Inc  
1025 Vermont Ave NW STE 720  
Washington, DC 20005-6319

**Department of the Treasury**  
**P. O. Box 2508**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45201**

**Person to Contact:**  
Ms. Dalton 31-07967  
Customer Service Representative  
**Toll Free Telephone Number:**  
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST  
877-829-5500  
**Fax Number:**  
513-263-3756  
**Federal Identification Number:**  
23-7305963

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of March 19, 2004 regarding a copy of your organization's exemption application and letter of determination.

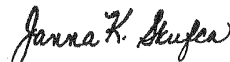
We were unable to locate these documents. However, we can affirm that your organization received exempt status in September 1984 and is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because your organization will not be able to provide a copy of its application on request, it should keep a copy of this letter in its permanent records.

If your organization filed for exemption after July 15, 1987, or had a copy of the application on July 15, 1987, it is required to make available for public inspection a copy of its exemption application, any supporting documents, and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. The law also requires you to make your organization's annual return (if you are required to file one) available for public inspection for three years after the due date of the return. You can charge only a reasonable fee for reproduction and actual postage costs for the copied materials. The law does not require you to provide copies of public inspection documents that are widely available, such as by posting them on the Internet (World Wide Web). You may be liable for a penalty of \$20 a day for each day you do not make these documents available for public inspection (up to a maximum of \$10,000 in the case of an annual return).

Please accept our apology for the delay in responding to your request and for any inconvenience this may have caused you or your organization.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,



Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE  
Customer Account Services

## 6. Project Summary

**County:** Tuolumne County

**Applicant:** American Rivers

**Project Title:** Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls

### PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of this project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls* is to remove the threat of development from Ackerson Meadow through acquisition, protection, and restoration of this keystone habitat, and through this initial action, jump start a movement to protect all remaining vital habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. This project is supported by a growing partnership of organizations including: American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy. More specifically, implementation of the full project will contribute to Proposition 84 goals by increasing: 1) riparian and aquatic habitat for a range of special status species; 2) water storage and flood attenuation capacity; and 3) water quality.

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Ackerson Meadow Project is designed to proceed in five successive steps including: 1) appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment; 2) acquisition of Ackerson Meadow; 3) transfer of title to National Park Service; 4) in depth assessment and development of meadow restoration plan; and 5) implementation of meadow restoration plan and performance monitoring. With this proposal, we request funding from SNC for activity 1: appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment.

The conservation outcomes that will result from full implementation of this project are many and will be monitored closely throughout the project. These include:

- Restore and protect watershed services provided by Ackerson Meadow including attenuating flood flows, summer base flows, and water quality
- Restore and protect wildlife services provided by Ackerson Meadow including habitat for birds and bats, and most particularly, Great Gray Owls
- Jump start a movement to protect and restore the remaining critical meadow habitat for the Great Gray Owls in California and to manage this landscape as an ecological whole

This project is requesting \$65,500 from SNC to implement this first activity. The project team is fully capable of all aspects of project management to ensure successful implementation. American Rivers will provide overall project management and coordination, and technical expertise in the assessment process. The Institute for Bird Populations will also assist with the assessment work, while the Pacific Forest Trust will oversee the appraisal and due diligence process.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Rodney Siegel, Institute for Bird Populations

Megan Wargo, Pacific Forest Trust

Graham Chisholm, Audubon California

John Buckley, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

## SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Finalized Workplan and Budget (Task 1)	June 30, 2011
Signed Subcontracts/grants with Project Partners (Task 1)	July 30, 2011
Biannual Financial and Performance Reports (Task 1)	December 15, 2011
Final Report (Task 1)	May 31, 2012
Contract with Appraiser (Task 2)	July 30, 2011
Finalized Appraisal (Task 2)	November 30, 2011
Contract for Due Diligence Work (Task 3)	October 31, 2011
Finalized Due Diligence Report	March 30, 2012
Final Assessment Protocol and MP (Task 4)	July 30, 2011
Final Meadow Assessment Technical Memo (Task 4)	April 15, 2012

### **SNC PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Staff/Personnel Expense – Project Related Wages/Benefits/Occupancy	\$ 15,974.35
Travel/Meeting Expense - Project Related	\$ 2,000.00
Subgrants/Contracts/Consultants - Project Related	\$ 24,600.00
Materials/Supplies - Project Related	\$ 110.00
Equipment Leases/Purchases - Project Dependent	\$ 1,036.33
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement	\$ 17,000.00
Performance Measure reporting	\$ 2,487.00
Administrative Costs	\$ 2,292.32
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 65,500.00</b>

### (a) Project Quality and Readiness

#### General Description

**Ackerson Meadow.** Ackerson Meadow is a 415 acre, privately-owned meadow in Tuolumne County which consists primarily of Sierra Mixed Conifer and wet meadow habitat. The meadow is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness, through the property for a mile, and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As Ackerson Creek cuts through the meadow, it is downcut from 5-15 feet resulting in dewatering of the meadow through the early and late summer season.

Despite this degradation, the meadow harbors a wealth of species. The incredible spring native wildflower displays in the meadow are a well-known local attraction, and the meadow is one of a few large mid-elevation complexes where wildflower and grass diversity are considered very high. In addition, local fishermen report that the Rainbow Trout in the creek are frequently over two feet in length and the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates is equally impressive. Western Pond Turtles (California Species of Special Concern) are also known to live in the meadow. Further, the meadow has been studied by numerous ecologists over the last 30 years and it is renowned for its ecological significance. For example, many significant bird sightings have been made here, some notable for their appearance at this unexpected elevation, including nesting by Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern) and Savannah Sparrows. In addition, Ackerson Meadow is one of few mid-elevation meadows reliably used by Willow Flycatchers during the breeding season (listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Spotted Owls nest nearby, and even a California Yellow-billed Cuckoo (listed by California as an Endangered Species and by the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 as a Sensitive Species) has been recorded in the meadow. The meadow is also used by Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern) in the breeding season, and by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern). Additionally, it is widely understood that Ackerson Meadow has the highest density of Great Grey Owls known to exist in the Sierra and State and federal biologists publicly state that Ackerson Meadow is a vital nesting site for the owls with at least three nesting pairs. Finally, the Avian Conservation Plan for the Sierra Nevada rates the protection of montane meadows such as Ackerson as the #1 priority for conservation.

**Great Gray Owls.** The Great Gray Owl which is North America's largest owl has been designated a State-endangered raptor in California due to a limited geographic distribution and an estimated statewide census population size of 100-200 individuals (Winter 1980; Rich 2000). The core breeding distribution of California great gray owls in the Sierra Nevada is centered in Yosemite National Park and the adjacent Stanislaus and Sierra National Forests. The owl is dependent on riparian/meadow habitat for foraging.

**Threats to Ackerson Meadow and the Great Gray Owls.** Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, Ackerson Meadow is just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park. This is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. Thus, imminent development is the meadow's greatest threat. In addition, continued downcutting of the Ackerson Creek will result in degradation of meadow services and loss of habitat.

The Sierra Nevada population of Great Gray Owls is at high risk of population decline or extinction due to a number of threats. Intense human development pressures at lower elevations threaten both breeding and wintering great gray owl habitat because the foothill regions of the Sierra Nevada are experiencing among the greatest human population growth rates of any region in California (Millar 1996). The Great Gray Owl is very rare in California with a tenuously fragmented distribution pattern. The greatest concentration of these owls is in the greater Yosemite area with Ackerson Meadow at the epicenter of



this population. This is where a major recovery effort should be directed, without which the future of this species in California may be intractable.

**Conservation Opportunity.** Ackerson Meadow does not exist in isolation, but is part of a stunning and sprawling complex of meadows that extend from the park boundary to the historic community of Groveland providing a corridor of habitat across the landscape. The entire system needs to be managed as a whole if this unique Great Gray Owl population is going to survive, but at present, there is no coordinated effort to protect this meadow complex as an ecological whole. In addition to Ackerson Meadow, the associated 1,100-acre meadow system in Groveland is also up for sale. Purchasing and protecting Ackerson Meadow will provide a foothold for jump-starting a larger strategy to protect this complex of meadows primarily for Great Gray Owl habitat, but also to protect the numerous other unique species that live in these ecosystems. Yosemite National Park is eager to take title to the property and protect it in perpetuity once funds are raised for the purchase. Towards this point, in the 1980s Congressman Lehman requested that the Park identify areas for potential acquisition – Ackerson Meadow topped this list. In short, this is the greatest opportunity to protect and restore habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. The cost of no action for this species cannot be overstated. An initial assessment indicates that with a small effort in restoration, this meadow system could be brought back to pristine condition.

**Project Goal and Activities.** The overall goal of this project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls* is to remove the threat of development from Ackerson Meadow through acquisition, protection, and restoration of this keystone habitat, and through this initial action, jump start a movement to protect all remaining vital habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. Initial project activities will include: 1) appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment; 2) acquisition of Ackerson Meadow; 3) transfer of title to National Park Service; 4) in depth assessment and development of meadow restoration plan; and 5) implementation of meadow restoration plan and performance monitoring. With this proposal, we request funding from SNC for activity 1: appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment. This project is supported by a growing partnership of organizations including: American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy.

**Conservation Outcomes.** The conservation outcomes that will result from full implementation of this project are many and will be monitored closely throughout the project. These include:

- Restore and protect watershed services provided by Ackerson Meadow including attenuating flood flows, summer base flows, and water quality
- Restore and protect wildlife services provided by Ackerson Meadow including habitat for birds and bats, and most particularly, Great Gray Owls
- Jump start a movement to protect and restore the remaining critical meadow habitat for the Great Gray Owls in California and to manage this landscape as an ecological whole

**Part of Larger Conservation Effort and Priority Project.** This project is part of a new initiative spearheaded by American Rivers and several other groups in the Sierra, and funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration at <http://www.nfwf.org>). The intent of this effort is to explore the possibility of meadow restoration being a viable “green infrastructure” alternative to building new dams to store water from the earlier melt of the Sierra snowpack as a result of climate change, while at the same time, providing water quality benefits and critical habitat.

In addition, protection of Ackerson Meadow has been among the highest priorities of Yosemite National Park since 1985. For the past five years, the Pacific Forest Trust and other project partners have been working closely with Yosemite National Park on the *Yosemite Area Conservation Project*, to protect the



Western border of the Park by purchasing significant, priority inholdings to permanently eliminate the development threats. With the support of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and landowner donations, Pacific Forest Trust has completed its first phase of acquisitions in 2006 to permanently protect approximately 1,000 acres. During this first phase of acquisitions, the landowners of Ackerson Meadow were contacted about working to permanently protect their property either through an easement or a fee title sale, and they were not interested. However, recently, the property changed hands and was sold to a landowner who is interested in the possibility of providing permanent protection to the property. The Nature Conservancy's *Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan* (1999) also highlights this property as a high priority protection site, naming it as the highest density of Great Gray Owls found in California. The Audubon Society has also acknowledged the importance of Ackerson Meadow to California's bird habitats, by giving it a specific mention in its Sierra Meadow-Important Bird Areas (IBA) Report.

## **Workplan and Schedule**

Below we describe a detailed workplan that includes specific tasks and subtasks. In addition, we provide information on deliverables per each task, including a schedule of each deliverable – details that are critical to ensure that the project will be implemented in a timely manner. This schedule assumes a June 1, 2011 start date and May 31, 2012 end date. In addition, each task describes the project partner who is responsible for implementing the tasks and the methods that will be used. The project team is fully staffed and is ready to proceed once funding is made available. At present, there are no foreseeable factors affecting the project's timeline.

### **Task 1. Management and Performance Measures**

The project team recognizes that project management and administration is a critical aspect of a successful project. Under this task, American Rivers will take the lead in fiscal management, reporting requirements, finalizing the workplan, developing and managing subcontracts, convening project team meetings, developing and disseminating project information, and coordinating with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In addition, under this task, American Rivers with the assistance of the project partners, will report on project performance.

- 1.1. Convene Project Team Meetings
- 1.2. Finalize Workplan and Budget
- 1.3. Draft and Finalize Subcontracts/grants
- 1.4. Finalize and Track Performance Measures
- 1.5. Manage Project Budget
- 1.6. Submit Financial and Performance Reports
- 1.7. Draft and submit Final Report

<b>Task 1 Deliverables</b>	<b>Responsible Partners</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Finalized Workplan and Budget	American Rivers	June 30, 2011
Signed Subcontracts/grants with Project Partners	American Rivers	July 30, 2011
Biannual Financial and Performance Reports	American Rivers with support from partners	December 15, 2011
Final Report	American Rivers with support from partners	May 31, 2012

### **Task 2: Ackerson Meadow Property Appraisal**

Task 2, which will be implemented by the Pacific Forest Trust, will involve completing a comprehensive real estate appraisal including timber, personal property and minerals (if appropriate) that is based on current market values and conducted by a State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser who is certified as a Master Appraiser by the Appraisal Institute, and experienced in doing appraisals for state agencies. The appraisal will be prepared in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The result of this task will be an appraisal report that includes, at a minimum, the following: 1.

Title page including the Application Number; 2) Letter of transmittal (brief summary of important conclusions; market value, date of valuation, etc.); 3) Table of contents; 4) Photographs, plat, legal description of property, name of current owner. 5) Map showing all sales in relation to subject property; 6) Sales sheets which disclose information on sales such as Grantor/Grantee; zoning; access; brief description of improvements; sale and recording dates; party sale confirmed with; information to locate sales such as street address, post mile, distance from local landmarks such as bridges, road intersections, structures, etc.; and terms of sale; 7) Photographs and plats of sale properties; 8) Analysis of area surrounding subject property; 9) Highest and best use (if controversial, discuss fully); 10) Description of improvements; 11) Discussion of sales comparing them directly to subject; 12) The three approaches to market value (if any of the three approaches are inapplicable, explain why); 13) Discussion of severance damage (or lack of damage) where a partial take is involved; 14) Effect of title exceptions on market value; and 15) Correlation and final estimate of market value (summarize the reasons supporting conclusions). Subtasks include the following:

- 2.1 Draft appraisal scope of work and put out for bid
- 2.2 Review responses and contract with chosen appraiser
- 2.3 Conduct real estate appraisal
- 2.4 Submit to SNC for pre-approval review
- 2.5 Submit to the State for approval
- 2.6 Meet with owner and discuss results and determine next steps for acquisition

Task 2 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Contract with Appraiser	Pacific Forest Trust	July 30, 2011
Finalized Appraisal	Pacific Forest Trust	November 30, 2011

### **Task 3: Ackerson Meadow Environmental Due Diligence**

Task 3 will be lead by the Pacific Forest Trust and will result in an environmental due diligence report for Ackerson Meadow. Pacific Forest Trust will undertake the following steps: 1) visual assessment of site conditions; 2) development of historical property uses which will involve the collection of current and historical site maps, identification of former occupants, and review of major infrastructure; 3) file reviews including taxes and assessments, and current and historical permits for uses on the land; 4) phase one environmental assessment; 5) review of water, mineral and timber rights; and 6) structural assessment. Results from all of the tasks are evaluated and compiled in a formal report, which includes recommendations, and if necessary, costs to be expected for future investigative tasks.

- 3.1 Draft due diligence scope of work and put out for bid
- 3.2 Review responses and contract for work
- 3.3 Conduct environmental due diligence
- 3.4 Due Diligence Report Finalized
- 3.5 Determine future tasks, if needed

Task 3 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Contract for Due Diligence Work	Pacific Forest Trust	October 31, 2011
Finalized Due Diligence Report	Pacific Forest Trust	March 30, 2012

### **Task 4: Ackerson Meadow Assessment**

The intent of Task 4 is to initiate a field study to assess the status of Ackerson Meadow and develop initial conceptual restoration designs. This assessment work will build on and synthesize previous efforts and studies associated with Ackerson Meadow and include: assessing surface and groundwater hydrology, stream channel and meadow morphology, instream ecology, water quality, soils, vegetation, and bird surveys. American Rivers and Institute for Bird Populations will provide the technical lead in this task. Subtasks are articulated below:

- 4.1 Draft assessment protocol and monitoring plan (MP)

- 4.2 Field test assessment protocol and make necessary adjustments
- 4.3 Conduct field assessment and analyze data
- 4.4 Draft technical memo on status of the Ackerson Meadow and conceptual restoration designs
- 4.5 Finalize Memo based on input from agencies, property owner and other stakeholders

Task 4 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Final Assessment Protocol and MP	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	July 30, 2011
Analyzed Data Sets	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	December 31, 2011
Final Meadow Assessment Technical Memo	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	April 15, 2012

### **Budget**

**In-Kind Support and Other Sources of Funding.** We have not applied to other agencies for funding for Activity 1 of this proposal (appraisal, due diligence and assessment), but project partners have applied to both the Yosemite Conservancy and NFWF for partial funding for acquisition (Activity 2).

**Request to SNC.** Funding from the SNC grant will be used to implement activities associated with all tasks described in this proposal.

**Dependent on Other Sources of Funding.** Funding from SNC will be sufficient to complete Activity 1 of this project as described in this proposal.

**Match.** The SNC grant funds that are sought with this proposal will not be used as a match against other state generated funds.

**Cost Effectiveness.** Compared to other projects, the proposed project is cost effective for several reasons. The project team is experienced in property appraisals, due diligence, and meadow assessment and will require very little research or equipment to move forward. Further, the team is fully staffed and has well-defined working relationships.

### **Status of Agreements and Land Tenure**

All project partners are fully supportive of this project and ready to implement their tasks, as well as coordinate on overall project implementation. This collaboration is firmly established and is reflected in the letters of support from partner organizations. The owners of Ackerson Meadow who have been consulted in the development of this proposal are supportive of the proposed activities.

### **(b) Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits**

Ackerson Meadow is part of a rare meadow system uniquely found at higher elevations (4600 feet). Nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that originates in Yosemite National Park, flows through the property and then into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As the Creek flows through the property, it helps create a unique wet meadow system that provides critical habitat for wildlife species and creates a link between the National Park and Stanislaus National Forest. Due to its important wet meadows, water resources, wildlife habitat and historical sites, the property is considered to be not just an inholding within public lands, but an integral part of the Yosemite Ecosystem.

As described above, the tasks we propose are the critical steps needed to lead to the acquisition and full-scale restoration of this meadow. Once these tasks are completed, the project team will seek funding for acquisition and restoration design and implementation.

Below, we describe the direct benefits of this phase of the project as well as the long-term expected impacts of full implementation. For the long-term benefits to rivers, associated lands, and other natural resources, we provide scientific justification for these expected impacts. The project team will implement pre- and post-restoration monitoring to quantify these expected impacts. The data that we will collect as part of the assessment in this phase will form the baseline for the impact monitoring.

### Near-Term Impacts (Activity 1)

- **State-Certified General Real Estate Appraisal of Ackerson Meadow.** This appraisal is a critical step to be able to get funding for acquisition.
- **Ackerson Meadow Due-Diligence Report.** This research and report is important to understanding the history and any potential issues associated with the property.
- **Integrated Assessment of a Critical, Priority Meadow.** This phase of the project will provide an integrated assessment of Ackerson Meadow to determine current conditions and resources.

### Long-Term Impacts (Full Implementation of Project)

Below we describe the long-term impacts of the project that will occur as a result of acquisition and restoration of Ackerson Meadow including restoration targets based on a review of the literature, past experience and the potential at Ackerson Meadow:

- **Increase Bird Habitat, Richness, and Abundance.** The restoration of Ackerson Meadow is expected to result in a 30% increase in bird community abundance index; and a 40% increase in bird community richness index (Green et al 2003) with positive impacts on the following species: Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern that has been observed nesting in the meadow), Savannah Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers (who use the meadow during the breeding season and are listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Spotted Owls (who nest nearby), and Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern who are frequently seen in the meadow).
- **Increase Bat Habitat.** The meadow is used by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern).
- **Increase Habitat for Great Grey Owl.** As mentioned in this proposal, Ackerson Meadow is a keystone habitat for Great Grey Owls and restoration of the meadow is expected to increase the quality of the habitat for these species as they are dependent on riparian/meadow habitat for foraging.
- **Increased Meadow Plant Species.** This restoration is expected to provide a 20% increase in wet meadow plant species, including a number of special status plant species such as the yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pulchellus*), Small's southern clarkia (*Clarkia australis*), and slender-stemmed monkeyflower (*Mimulus filicaulis*), of which there are only two other reported occurrences in the subregion.
- **Increase in Native Fish and Aquatic Species.** The native Rainbow Trout found in Ackerson Creek are frequently over two feet in length and the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates is equally impressive. Western Pond Turtles (California Species of Special Concern) are also known to live in the meadow. The project team expects an increase in these species due to the restoration, as well as a 10% increase in population numbers of Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frogs.
- **Increased water storage capacity.** This project will quantify increases in water storage capacity as a result of restoration in Ackerson Meadow. We expect a 30% increase in summer base flows (Kavvas et al. 1994, Plumas Corporation 2006, Flint et al., 2004) as a result of meadow restoration.
- **Reduction in peak stage of floods.** Preliminary studies suggest a potential 15% reduction in peak stage of floods in meadows with restored connection between channel and floodplain. We expect similar results in Ackerson Creek.

- **Lower water temperatures.** These meadows will be reconnected to the groundwater table through restoration which usually results in lower summer water temperatures downstream of the restoration site (Loheid and Gohelic 2006). A reduction in average summer daily water temperature of 4 degrees F is expected downstream of Ackerson Meadow as a result of restoration.
- **Decreased sediment.** Reconnecting the meadows with the floodplain will reduce erosion and sediment delivery (Kavvas et al. 1994). We expect a 15% decrease in downstream fine sediment delivery.

**Addresses Existing and Potential Threats.** Ackerson Meadow has been proposed for subdivision and residential development. The acquisition and transfer of Ackerson Meadow to Yosemite National Park and the restoration of the meadow system will ensure that the tract remains in natural forest and meadow habitats and that existing wildlife habitat will be restored as a cohesive unit with the forests, riparian areas and meadow systems connected. Ackerson Creek, which flows through the meadow, is downcut from 5-15 feet resulting in dewatering of the meadow through the early and late summer season. It is likely that this downcutting will continue unless actions are taken to restore the natural elevation of the creek. The project will address this issue through future planning and technical designs that restore natural hydrology including reducing downcutting and increasing flooding frequency of the meadow.

**Performance Measures and Quantifying Benefits.** In terms of monitoring progress, the Project Team will develop a suite of performance measures (Task 1) that include output measures (e.g. deliverables, etc). Included in this performance monitoring are the SNC Performance Measures as outlined in section 9 of this proposal. In addition, the full implementation of this project will carefully assess, predict, monitor, and quantify a range of ecosystem services before, during and after restoration, including water quality, summer flows, flood attenuation, habitat, and forage production.

**Sustainability of Project.** The full implementation of this project will include a restoration design using projections of future precipitation and hydrology under climate change scenarios to ensure that the restoration is robust and sustainable over time. Restoration projects that are not sized or designed to accommodate future projected flows are at a risk of “blowing out”.

**Climate Change.** The Sierra Nevada is considered the most vulnerable location in the continental United States to the warming trends expected from climate change due to the relatively warm nature of its snowpack. Under climate change scenarios, the magnitude of peak flows is expected to increase, thereby increasing flood risk. Properly functioning meadows operate as floodplains that temporarily store floodwaters and reduce flood peaks downstream. Meadows can also store water beneath the surface and release it back into the stream more slowly over the dry summer months. Thus, it is expected that healthy mountain meadows will help mitigate the adverse changes expected from global warming. In addition, there is strong evidence that restored meadows sequester carbon. With restoration, Sierra meadows experience a radical change in plant community type and overall plant biomass: in many cases sparse herbaceous cover and scattered sagebrush is replaced with a thick cover of sedges and willow species supported by dense rooting structures (Chambers and Miller 2004, Lindquist and Wilcox 2000). Studies in restored versus unrestored meadows in the Feather River watershed show that restoring meadows could provide an increase in below ground carbon stores of 110 to 220 CO<sub>2</sub>e tons per acre over a 2 to 10 year post-restoration period (Wilcox et. al unpublished project results 2009).

**Measuring Progress.** As a result of this phase of the project, we will be able to quantify and analyze important meadow-specific parameters to determine the overall condition of Ackerson Meadow. These attributes include vegetation functional status and composition/distribution, water storage capacity, meadow topography, bird populations, fish populations, benthic macroinvertebrate composition, water table levels, stream channel dimension, and erosion rates. In addition to informing the conceptual restoration design, this information will serve as pre-restoration baseline data that can be used to measure the performance of future restoration.



### (c) SNC Program Goals

This project is designed specifically to provide and integrate multiple benefits, including ecological, hydrological, and recreational. These benefits are described in more detail in the Table below.

SNC Goals - Primary	Project Contribution
<b>(a). Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation</b>	Once purchased, Ackerson Meadow will be transferred to Yosemite National Park for public use and recreation. Conservation of Ackerson Meadow will enhance public access, education, and recreation opportunities, as it permits public access to previously private areas. Ackerson Meadow is already identified as an important birding spot in a number of travel books including the <i>Lone Planet Guide to Yosemite National Park</i> , which names Ackerson Meadow as the place to see the great gray owl, “Yosemite’s most famous and sought after bird.” Including the meadow in Yosemite National Park will ensure that the meadow will never be developed and will always be available for public enjoyment and compatible recreation. In addition, the property forms the scenic backdrop to several country roads, including the relatively well-traveled Evergreen Road, which are used by tourists driving through the backcountry. Conservation will preserve the scenic quality of these roads, which is consistent with the Tuolumne County General Plan’s Scenic Resources section.
<b>(b). Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources.</b>	The Ackerson Meadow property is one of the principal cultural resource locations for Yosemite Native American activities. Bedrock mortars, extensive artifacts, and several cultural-archeological sites have been identified on the property. Acquisition and conservation of the property will preserve these cultural artifacts. As discussed earlier, conservation of this tract will also protect the rare wet meadow ecosystem that provides critical wildlife habitat for endangered plant and animal species, nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that flows into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River, and critical ecosystem linkages between Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest.
<b>(e). Protect and improve water and air quality</b>	The conservation of Ackerson Meadow will provide significant protections for the water resources on the property including: protective riparian buffers above the CA Forest Practices Act requirements, as well as a limit on activities that could cause erosion or run-off on the property, and forest management that will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires that could lead to sedimentation of Ackerson Creek. Once transferred into National Park ownership, the property will also receive permanent water protection by eliminating the risk of development and overgrazing along the Creek and in the wet meadow system.

**Performance Measures and Monitoring and Evaluation.** Please see response to similar question under section (b) above.

### (d) Cooperation and Community Support

**Project Partners.** This project is offered by a diverse and strong partnership including American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy. The project is fully staffed and ready to proceed as indicated by the attached Letters of Support from each of the partner organizations who are involved in this phase of the project.

**Community Support and Stakeholder Process.** Over the past five years, the Pacific Forest Trust has partnered with Yosemite National Park to identify properties along the Park's western border that have significant resource values and are threatened by development pressures. Through this partnership, the Pacific Forest Trust has successfully acquired 1,000 acres of high priority lands. Protection of Ackerson Meadow has been among the high priority goals for Yosemite National Park for over 20 years, and the property was identified as a priority for protection in the initial *Yosemite Conservation Plan*, which Pacific Forest Trust completed in partnership with the Park in 2004. Recent discussions with the Park have confirmed that it is still very interested in working with the Pacific Forest Trust to ensure the protection of the Ackerson Meadow.

In addition, the Department of Fish and Game specifically noted the importance of the wet meadows on Ackerson Meadow for endangered species habitat, and had recommended its protection to the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding during an earlier attempt to protect the property. The Pacific Forest Trust has worked closely with the CA Department of Fish and Game regarding acquiring and managing this property.

Further, Pacific Forest Trust has met with local resident groups at the Yosemite West Community Meetings and with the local Yosemite Institute, whose mission is to provide outdoor and scientific education in the Park, to discuss our conservation plans. Both of these groups have been supportive of our efforts to protect the Park's boundaries and the historical and natural resources on parcels such as Ackerson Meadow.

**On-Going Community Involvement and Consultation.** The project team intends to continue partnerships and on-going consultations with agencies and stakeholders as we proceed with acquisition and management of this property.

**Project Opposition.** To date there has been no opposition to this project; however, we will solicit input from a range of stakeholders with interviews and public meetings to ensure that their values are integrated into the restoration plans and designs.

**Educational Opportunities.** As the project proceeds towards implementation, the intent is to provide a full docent and educational program for a range of audiences, including children, schools and communities that highlight the historical, cultural and ecological aspects of Ackerson Meadow.

**Compatibility with Other Efforts.** The protection of the open space/scenic resources, water resources, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities of Ackerson Meadow are consistent with local and regional plans such as the Sierra Nevada Resource Investment of Needs Assessment (2002), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Plan (2002) and the Tuolumne County General plan (1996). This project is also supported by a number of other conservation organizations. For example, Ackerson Meadow was a high priority for protection in the Nature Conservancy's Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan (1999) and was included in the Audubon's Important Bird Areas - Sierra Meadows.

**Result Sharing and Replication.** Because American Rivers is a leader in the Sierra Meadows Initiative mentioned above, we are strategically placed to share results of this work, as well as to promote replication of the most promising elements. American Rivers staff is a hub in networked state and federal agencies, Universities, and other NGOs involved in meadow restoration in the Sierra. In addition, the project team is on the steering committee that sets the agenda for the annual Sierra Meadow Summit, as well as facilitates sessions and makes presentations.

## **(e) Project Design, Management and Sustainability**

This project is offered by a diverse and strong partnership and is fully capable of carrying out all aspects of project management, appraisals, landowner discussions, planning, monitoring, design and restoration to ensure successful implementation. The particular roles of the various partners are described in the workplan above. Below, we describe the organizations and the staff that will be involved in the project.

**American Rivers** will provide overall project and fiscal management, as well as technical skills. American Rivers which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2010 is the leading river conservation organization in the United States ([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)) and has significant experience in successfully managing federally and state funded projects. We have a strong history of meeting reporting requirements, including completing and disseminating final technical and financial reports, managing subcontractors and partners, and providing outreach to other organizations facing similar issues or challenges. Below we describe our experiences in the last three years.

In terms of federal grants, American Rivers has received funding since 2001 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for our Community-Based Restoration Program. Under this grant, we have provided financial and technical assistance for river restoration projects benefiting diadromous fish species in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northwest (WA, OR, ID) and California. In the 2007 Fiscal Year we received and managed \$530,100, in the 2008 Fiscal Year, \$800,355 and in the 2009 Fiscal Year, \$700,000. We report on these grants every six months, providing financial, performance, and progress measure information. In addition, we have received a grant from USEPA's Targeted Watershed Program, one from the SWRCB using ARRA funds for a stormwater management project in the Yuba Watershed, and several grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Forest Foundation for assessment, design and restoration work on Bear Valley Meadow and Pauley Creek Meadows.

In terms of State grants, in the 2006 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$10,000 for the Cedar Run Dam Removal and Fish Passage Engineering from the NFWF/Chesapeake Bay Grant Program. In the 2007 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$50,000 for the Darby Creek Restoration Initiative from the NFWF/Delaware Estuary Grant Program. In the 2008 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$25,000 for Nicodemus Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration from the NFWF/Chesapeake Bay Program as well as \$28,680 from the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center for the Ralph Stover Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration. In addition, recently, American Rivers partnered on a project entitled "Deer Creek Tribute Trail and Restoration" which was awarded \$912,000 of which American Rivers was awarded \$459,000 from the California State Resources Agency. In 2008, American Rivers received funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$45,000 to improve water quality and increase aquatic function and biodiversity in Sierra rivers and creeks through trust water allocations to instream flow. In addition, in 2008, American Rivers was awarded another grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$107,000 for the technical design associated with restoring cultural and ecological integrity to the meadows of Bear Valley in the Bear River watershed. In these experiences, American Rivers has a proven and strong track record of developing performance measures, monitoring progress against them, and documenting achievements and expected outputs alone and in collaboration with partners. In addition, we provide on time progress and financial reporting and finish projects on time and within budget.

In terms of staff who will be dedicated to this project, [Steve Rothert](#) is the Director of the California Regional Office, and in this position, he has played an important role in several watershed management efforts, including watershed assessment and restoration planning for Deer Creek, anadromous fish reintroduction feasibility studies in the Yuba River basin, fish passage barrier removals across California, and hydropower dam relicensings in the Klamath, Feather and Yuba River basins. Steve holds a M.S. in water resources management from the University of California, Berkeley. [Elizabeth Soderstrom, PhD](#), has significant experience over the last 20 years in managing complex river restoration and management projects, including playing a leadership role in Sierra meadow restoration. She received her B.S and M.S. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, and her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1994 in river



science. Both Steve and Elizabeth will provide technical and strategic input as this project proceeds. [Luke Hunt, PhD](#) has extensive experience in research and monitoring, has taught in experiential and outdoor settings and received his PhD from Stanford University in 2006. Luke is currently managing two meadow restoration projects for American Rivers – one on evaluating both restoration and monitoring methods for meadows in the Sierra, and the other on devising methods to integrate meadow restoration with grazing in the Sierra. Luke Hunt will serve as project manager for this project. [Bror Daniel Nysten](#), who will assist with meadow assessment for this project works to design, plan, and implement monitoring and restoration activities aimed at protecting and restoring stream ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada. He has a degree in Biology and a minor in Earth Science from UC Santa Cruz. In addition, [Sarah Regan](#), backstopped by our contract attorney and accountant in DC, will be in charge of fiscal oversight. Sarah holds a B.A. in Outdoor Recreation/Adventure Based Counseling and received her M.A. in Holistic Health Education from John F. Kennedy University.

**The Pacific Forest Trust.** Since 1993, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) has been dedicated to conserving and sustaining America's vast, productive open landscapes. As a non-profit organization working with a diverse array of partners, the Pacific Forest Trust advances innovative, incentive-based strategies to safeguard our nation's vital forests and their many public benefits. The Pacific Forest Trust has been acquiring and stewarding conservation easements and fee title properties since 1993, and was recently awarded Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. PFT has completed conservation projects on over 45,000 acres and has permanently conserved land valued at over \$150,000,000. PFT also conducts annual stewardship monitoring of each easement, most of which involve ongoing active forest and rangeland management. The organization currently employs over twenty staff in California, Oregon, Washington, and Washington, D.C., with five devoted entirely to conservation and stewardship activities. PFT's in-house staff has collective experience negotiating over 45 conservation transactions. The Pacific Forest Trust has five full time staff members that are devoted to conservation and stewardship activities and these staff are thoroughly trained in policies and procedures that meet and often exceed the standards and practices of the Land Trust Alliance. PFT's counsel is Bill Hutton, one of the nation's leading attorneys in the land conservation field. Megan Wargo who is the *Klamath-Cascade Program Director* holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a B.A. in environmental studies, economics and policy from Claremont McKenna College. She has previously worked as a Project Manager for the Trust for Public Land's Sierra Nevada/Northern California team, a Land Protection Specialist for the Piedmont Land Conservancy in Greensboro, NC and a Stewardship Associate at the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in Homer, AK.

**Institute for Bird Populations.** The Institute for Bird Populations is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to research and dissemination of information on the abundance, distribution, and ecology of birds, and to facilitating scientifically informed conservation of birds and their habitats. [Rodney Siegel](#), Executive Director, Rodney joined IBP as a research scientist in 1998, after completing his Ph.D. in Ecology at UC Davis. Since then he has directed IBP's Sierra Nevada Bird Observatory and its Avian Inventory Program, often collaborating with government agencies to design and conduct bird surveys and produce scientifically informed conservation and management recommendations. Rodney's current research interests include the effects of fire and fire management on forest birds, the ecology and conservation of birds dependent on montane meadows in the Sierra Nevada, the ecology and conservation of owls, and the effects of climate change on birds of western montane forests. Rodney has published scientific papers in numerous peer-reviewed journals, and serves on the Executive Steering Committee of California Partners in Flight. [Helen Loffland](#), has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from UC Davis, and a M.S. in Biology from CSU Sacramento. She has spent the last 15 years monitoring willow flycatchers in meadows of the central Sierra Nevada and is the lead author on the widely used survey protocol for this species. In addition, she has extensive experience with multi-species surveys of meadow birds and has also spent many years conducting surveys for forest raptors, forest carnivores, plants, and fish.

Detailed Budget Form					
State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy					
<b>APPLICANT NAME:</b> American Rivers					
<b>SNC REF #:</b>					
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b> Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls					
<b>PROJECT TYPE (choose one):</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING					
SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Staff/Personnel Expense - Project Related Wages/Benefits					
American Rivers Restoration Scientist	75	hrs	\$74.97	\$5,622.75	\$5,622.75
American Rivers Senior River Scientist	120	hrs	\$41.45	\$4,974.00	\$4,974.00
American Rivers Monitoring Specialist	160	hrs	\$25.23	\$4,036.80	\$4,036.80
American Rivers Project Administrator	40	hrs	\$33.52	\$1,340.80	\$1,340.80
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$15,974.35</b>	<b>\$15,974.35</b>
Travel/Meeting Expense - Project Related					
AR staff travel	3000	mi.	\$0.50	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Per Diem (food, lodging, and miscellaneous)	10	days	\$50.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Subgrants/Contracts/Consultants - Project Related					
Pacific Forest Trust including Due Diligence (subgrant)	250	hrs	\$76.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
Institute for Bird Populations (subgrant)	70	hrs	\$80.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$24,600.00</b>	<b>\$24,600.00</b>
Materials/Supplies - Project Related					
Clip Boards	4	ea.	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Field Data Sheets	100	ea.	\$0.10	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
Equipment Leases/Purchases - Project Dependent					
RELM/BK RP6100 Two Way Radios	2	ea.	\$359.00	\$718.00	\$718.00
Hip Waders	4	ea.	\$79.58	\$318.33	\$318.33
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$1,036.33</b>	<b>\$1,036.33</b>
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement					
Pacific Forest Trust - subcontract to State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser				\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$60,720.68</b>	<b>\$60,720.68</b>
SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Performance Measure reporting					
American Rivers Senior River Scientist	60	hrs	\$41.45	\$2,487.00	\$2,487.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,487.00</b>	<b>\$2,487.00</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,487.00</b>	<b>\$2,487.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$63,207.68</b>	<b>\$63,207.68</b>

<b>SECTION THREE</b>					
<b>Administrative Costs (Description - Not to exceed 15% of Project Total):</b>					
Expenses associated with the management and administration of the organization	14.35	%	\$15,974.35	\$2,292.32	\$2,292.32
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,292.32</b>	<b>\$2,292.32</b>
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>				<b>\$65,500.00</b>	<b>\$65,500.00</b>

\*Unit: Enter the appropriate unit of measure (e.g., hours = hrs., months = mos., each = ea., feet = ft., miles = mi., miscellaneous = misc., package = pkg.)

<b>Project Budget Details</b>					
<b>State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy</b>					
<b>APPLICANT NAME:</b> American Rivers					
<b>SNC REF #:</b>					
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b> Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls					
<b>PROJECT TYPE (choose one):</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING					
<b>SECTION FOUR</b>					
<b>OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>UNIT*</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Status**</b>
List other funding or in-kind contributors to project					
			\$0.00		
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	

## 9. Performance Measures

Performance measures are critical components of the Ackerson Meadow Project. Below we provide a table that lists the performance measures that we will use to measure the progress and impact of the first activity of this project. We also recognize that these performance measures are critical to measuring progress towards SNC achieving its programmatic goals. For each performance measure, we also list targets and methods for measuring them. Costs associated with reporting on these performance measures are included in Task 1 of the project and are in the project budget.

In addition, long-term Performance Measures that could be used to measure the impact of the Ackerson Meadow Project when implemented include:

- Acre Feet Per Annum of Streamflow Improved
- Acre Feet Per Annum of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Feet of Trail/Path Constructed or Improved
- Linear Feet of Streambank Protected or Restored
- Number of Significant Sites Protected or Preserved
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered

Activity I Performance Measure	Target	Methodology
<b>Performance Measures Common to All Categories</b>		
Number of People Reached	Individuals within conservation groups: 20 Resource Professionals: 5 Government Officials: 5  Total: 30	For each SNC-sponsored collaborative activity that is part of this project, we will record the number of people reached using sign-in sheets.  We will also record number of assessments distributed.
Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada	Project Funds from Other Sources:  Total: \$0	For this phase of the project, we will not leverage additional funds, but for acquisition and restoration, we intend to raise funds from a range of funders, in addition to SNC.
Number and Type of Jobs Created	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services: 1.5 FTE	We will document the number of people employed, length of employment, average number of hours worked per week, and calculate FTE using number of hours worked per week x number of weeks worked divided by 2080.
Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments	Assessments: 1	This project will develop one integrated assessments.

## 10. Environmental Setting and Impacts

At 4600 feet, Ackerson Meadow represents one of the largest mid-elevation meadows in the Sierra. Healthy mountain meadows are biodiversity hotspots. Cool consistent discharge in the summers provides excellent habitat for aquatic invertebrates, fishes, and amphibians within the meadow and downstream. Gradients in soil moisture result in a wide range of plants species which provide food and habitat for many wildlife species. The Ackerson Meadow property encompasses not only the meadow habitat surrounding Ackerson Creek, but also open hillsides and old growth forests where Great Gray Owls have been consistently observed.

**Plant Communities.** The project area is located primarily within the Yellow Pine Forest vegetation community, characteristic of areas between 610 to 1,980 m (2,000 to 6,500 ft) in elevation in the central Sierra Nevada (Munz and Keck 1959:15). Overstory species of this community include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Jeffrey pine (*P. jeffreyi*), sugar pine (*P. lambertiana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), and black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). Common understory species include Sierra currant (*Ribes nevadense*), Sierra gooseberry (*Ribes roezlii*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), thimbleberry (*Ribes parviflorus*), deer brush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), and mountain misery (*Chamaebatia foliosa*).

The meadow is generally dry in summer months as a result of the downcutting of Ackerson Creek; however it still supports a wide variety of native wildflowers. As one of very few large mid-elevation meadows it is home to diverse species of rushes and sedges. Around the meadow the vegetation is typical of the Yellow Pine vegetation community. The primary trees are ponderosa pines, black oaks, and incense cedar. Along the Ackerson creek riparian plant species—most frequently willows—are common.

**Animals.** Animals that inhabit the general area are diverse and numerous. Large mammals include black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Smaller animals include wolverine, badger, raccoon, ring tail, marmot, porcupine, and various foxes, skunks, weasels, rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, bats, birds, trout, suckerfish, squawfish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and invertebrates (Booth 1968; Storer and Usinger 1963). Unlike vegetation, animals are not tied to specific elevation or environmental zones, but tend to occupy various favorable areas in different seasons.

**Fish and Wildlife:** Ackerson Creek holds a tremendous diversity of macroinvertebrates which help support a healthy population of native rainbow trout. Anglers have reported catching rainbows over two feet in Ackerson Creek. The meadow also supports western pond turtles, which are listed as a California Species of concern. The meadow is also used by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern).

**Birds:** Ackerson Meadow's size, elevation, and diverse plant communities make it a unique and important habitat for a wide variety of birds. Many significant bird sightings have been made here, some notable for their appearance at this unexpected elevation, including nesting by Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern) and Savannah Sparrows. In addition, Ackerson Meadow is one of few mid-elevation meadows reliably used by Willow Flycatchers during the breeding season (listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Spotted Owls nest nearby, and even a California Yellow-billed Cuckoo (listed by California as an Endangered Species and by the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 as a Sensitive Species) has been recorded in the meadow. The meadow is also used by Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern) in the breeding season.

Perhaps Ackerson Meadow's greatest value is as critical habitat for **Great Grey Owls**. It is generally agreed that Ackerson Meadow has the highest density of great grey owls known to exist in the Sierra. The riparian meadow serves as foraging habitat while nearby old growth pines of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest provide important nesting and breeding habitat. With only an estimated 100 to

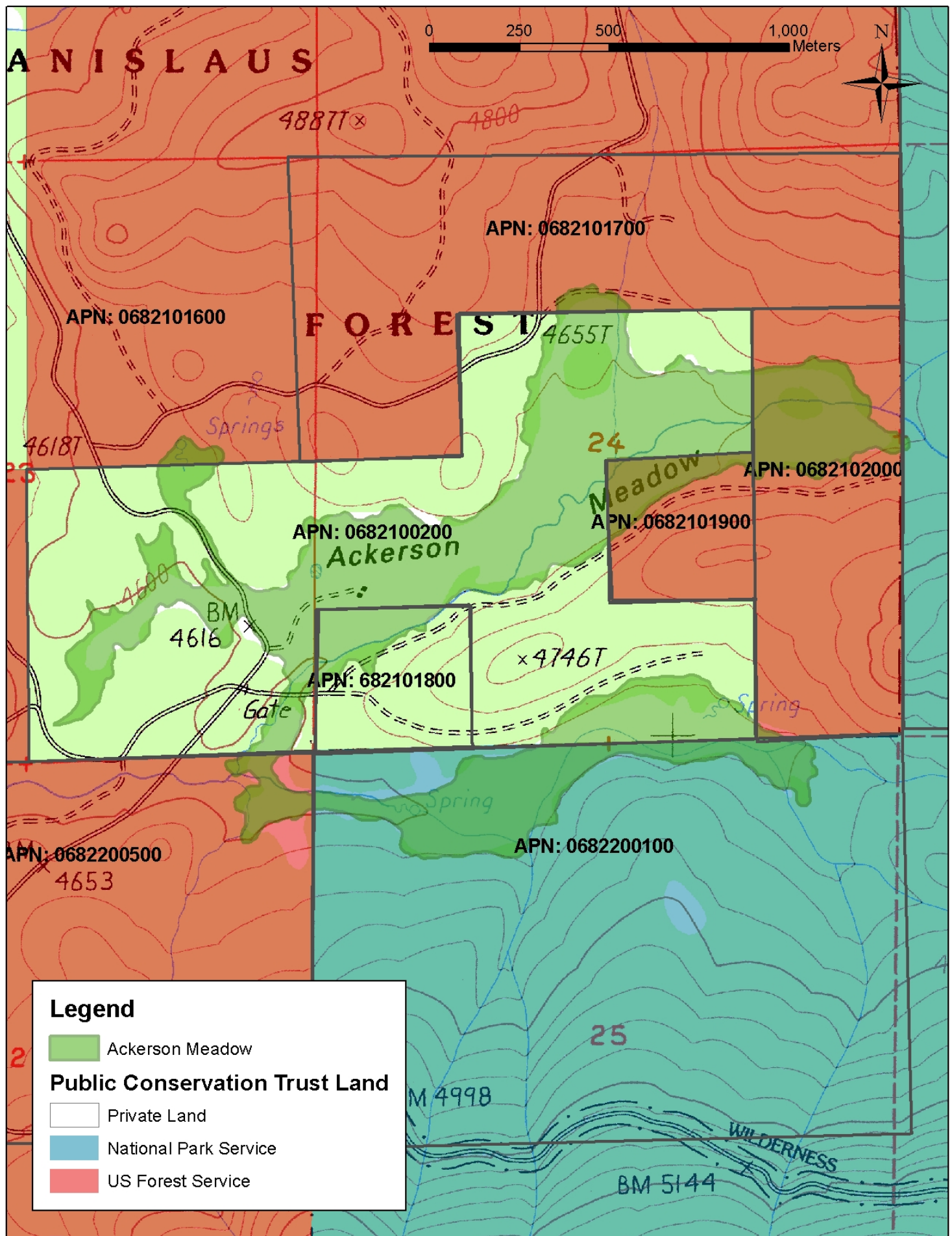
200 great grey owls in California (Winter 1980; Rich 2000), Ackerson Meadow's importance to the continued survival of the species in the state cannot be understated.

**Cultural Resources.** The project area falls within the territory of the Central Sierra Miwok. The Miwok occupied year-round villages below approximately 1,220 m (4,000 ft) in elevation, moving to higher areas during the summer (Barrett and Gifford 1933). Summer village areas were large occupation sites at higher elevations inhabited between the months of May and October, while seasonal camps were short-term occupation sites used during hunting and gathering (Merriam 1967), and provided relief from the heat of the lower elevations, while also facilitating access to seasonally available plant and animal resources. Acorns and deer were important for subsistence, along with a variety of small game, bird, fish, seeds, roots, and berries. Some plants, such as redbud, were managed (i.e. coppiced or burned) to produce the straighter branches suitable for basket making (Anderson 1988). Acorns and other seed and nut crops were stored for use in elevated structures, called *chukah*, made of twined foliage and poles. They were processed into flour by pounding with pestles in mortars, although mortars also were used to pulverize small game for older residents. It is likely that Ackerson Meadow was such a site and at least one milling station has been identified on the property.

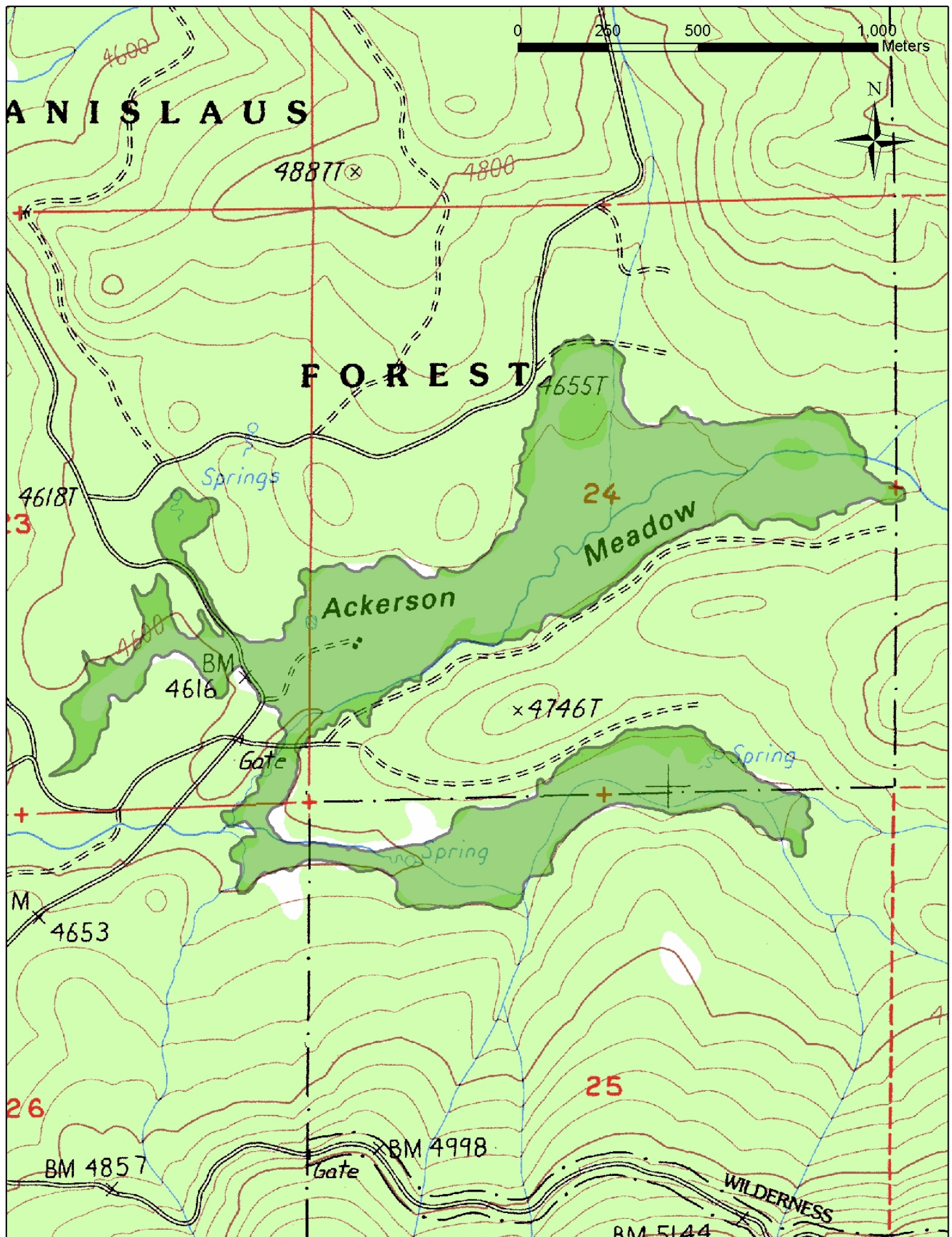
**Current Land Use:** The Ackerson Meadow property, which is currently for sale, is zoned for timber production and is leased for grazing. With the meadow's proximity to Yosemite National Park, the greatest concern is that property will be purchased and developed into a hotel/recreation complex.

















## 15. Land Tenure

The parcel is privately-owned and the owner is supportive of the appraisal, due diligence and assessment work that is proposed.

## 16. Leases and Agreements

Other leases and agreements are not applicable to this project because there are no known leases, agreements, memorandum of understanding, etc. affecting project lands or the future operation and maintenance thereof.

## 17. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Not applicable. This project does not meet the definition of a “project” according to the provisions of CEQA. This project involves no construction, so environmental compliance, or permits are not required. Preparation of a monitoring plan (MP) will ensure that no inadvertent secondary effects occur as a result of onsite monitoring, surveying or assessment.

## 18. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Compliance

Not applicable. This project is not located on Federally Managed Lands.

## 19. Regulatory Requirements / Permits

Other regulatory requirements are not applicable to this project as it involves no construction, so environmental compliance, or permits are not required. Preparation of a monitoring plan (MP) will ensure that no inadvertent secondary effects occur as a result of onsite monitoring, surveying or assessment.

## 20. Demonstrations of Support

Graham Chisholm, Audubon California

Rodney Siegel, The Institute for Bird Populations

Megan Wargo, The Pacific Forest Trust

John Buckley, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center





4225 Hollis Street  
Emeryville, CA 95825  
Tel. 510-601-1866  
Fax 510-601-1954  
[www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org)

September 8, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Ms. Carr,

On behalf of Audubon California and our more than 150,000 members and supporters we write to express support for the project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. We endorse the work of American Rivers and other project partners in the first phase of this project which is focused on appraisal, assessment and pre-acquisition tasks.

Ackerson Meadows is a priority acquisition and restoration project in the Sierra. The property is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek, which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. The meadow harbors a wealth of species, including many threatened and endangered species including the Great Gray Owl. It is notable that the Avian Conservation Plan for the Sierra Nevada rates the protection of montane meadows such as Ackerson as the top priority for conservation.

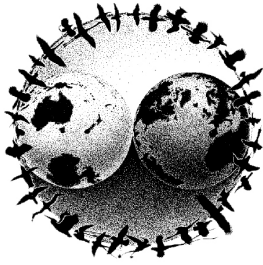
Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, the meadow is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. Failure to promptly pursue the conservation acquisition of this key parcel will very likely result in its commercial development in the near future.

We are confident in the project team's ability to collaborate successfully and we urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Graham Chisholm  
Executive Director



## THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS

P.O. Box 1346

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346

(415) 663-1436 • FAX (415) 663-9482 • [www.birdpop.org](http://www.birdpop.org)

September 8, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Dear Ms. Carr:

I am writing to express The Institute for Bird Populations' support for the project, *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. We endorse the work of American Rivers and other project partners in the first phase of this project which is focused on appraisal, assessment and pre-acquisition tasks, and look forward to collaborating with American Rivers and other project partners on the restoration of this important site.

Ackerson Meadows is a priority acquisition and restoration project in the Sierra. The property is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek, which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. The meadow complex harbors a wealth of biodiversity, including meadow-dependent threatened and endangered species.

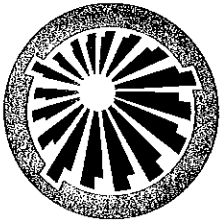
Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, the meadow is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex, which could be very harmful to this sensitive ecosystem. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. This project is aimed at eliminating the threat of development and conserving and restoring this important property.

The Ackerson Meadow complex is particularly rich in birdlife, so much so that I have been taking field survey crews there in the springtime for years, to train them in meadow bird identification. I cannot think of another meadow anywhere in the Sierra Nevada that is more worthy and in greater need of targeted conservation efforts.

I am confident in the project team's ability to collaborate successfully and I urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rodney Siegel, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



# PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

September 9, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Dear Ms. Carr:

I am writing to express the Pacific Forest Trust's support for the project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*.

The Property is part of a rare meadow system uniquely found at higher elevations. Nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that originates in the National Park, flows through the property and then into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As the Creek flows through the property, it helps to create this unique wet meadow system that provides critical habitat for wildlife species and creates a link between the National Park and Stanislaus National Forest. Documented endangered-species sightings in the meadow include nesting, breeding and foraging great gray owls (*Strix nebulosa*) and willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). The Nature Conservancy's *Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan* (1999) highlights this property as a high priority protection site, naming it as the highest density of great gray owls found in California.

Since 2004, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) has worked closely with Yosemite National Park on the *Yosemite Area Conservation Project*, to protect the Western border of the Park by purchasing significant, priority inholdings to permanently eliminate the development threats to the Park's resources. The Ackerson Meadow Property has been identified as the highest acquisition priority for PFT and Yosemite National Park. We look forward to working in partnership with American Rivers and the Tuolumne County Land Trust on the successful acquisition of this tract.

We urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Wargo  
Klamath-Cascade Program Director



**Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center**  
Box 396 • Twain Harte, CA 95383 • (209) 586-7440 • FAX (209) 586-4986  
Visit our website at: [www.cserc.org](http://www.cserc.org) or contact us at: [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org)

September 10, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Kim:

As you are already aware, our Center strongly supports the acquisition of the Ackerson Meadow property that lies adjacent to Yosemite Park. Our staff in the past has assisted U.S. Forest Service biologists in implementing Great Gray Owl surveys on the national forest portion of the meadow complex. I have personally seen Great Gray Owls on the property at various times, plus I have observed numerous other wildlife species using the meadow or surrounding forest habitat.

For more than a decade, our Center has attempted to collaborate with other interests to ensure that Ackerson Meadow ends up in public ownership in order to best protect its unique and impressive resource values. Various threats have arisen over the years. At one point a logging plan would have significantly reduced the suitability of the forest for nesting habitat for the owl and other closed canopy dependent species. There have been open discussions by various previous property owners of developing the site. And even now, with a property owner supposedly willing to consider a transfer to public ownership, the threat of development remains.

With this letter, our Center affirms our strong support for public acquisition of Ackerson Meadow in order to proactively acquire the property before a significant development proposal makes acquisition more difficult. It is our understanding that American Rivers and the Pacific Forest Trust are cooperating together in efforts to appraise the current market value and negotiate with the landowner. CSERC supports American Rivers grant request to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding for appraisal and pre-acquisition tasks needed to gain public ownership of this important parcel.

John Buckley, executive director

## 21. Executive Officer Authorization Request Form

Not applicable. This is not a time-sensitive project under \$50,000.



September 7, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Re: Authorization to submit application *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to thank you for giving American Rivers the opportunity to submit a proposal for our work on *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. The Board of Directors of American Rivers supports this project and authorizes the submission of this grant application for funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for appraisal and pre-acquisition tasks.

My thanks again.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Whitney  
Chair of the Board of Directors

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
Business Regulation Administration  
CORPORATION DIVISION

WASHINGTON



**This is to certify** *that the pages attached hereto constitute a full, true, and complete copy of* CERTIFICATE AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC., AS RECEIVED AND FILED JANUARY 18, 1974-ANNUAL REPORT, FILED FEBRUARY 16, 1983.

*as the same appears of record in this office.*

**In Testimony Whereof,**

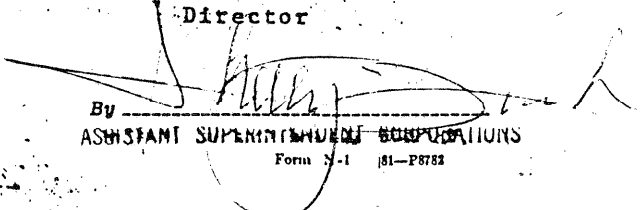
*I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed, this*

the 23rd day of

NOVEMBER 83  
A. D. 19

Carol B. Thompson

Director

By   
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CORPORATIONS

Form 3-1 81-P8782

Government of the District of Columbia  
MARION S. BARRY, Jr., Mayor  
SEPTEMBER 1981

OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D. C.

Corporation Division  
Sixth and D Streets, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20001

740148

CERTIFICATE

*THIS IS TO CERTIFY* that all provisions of the District of Columbia  
Non-profit Corporation Act have been complied with and ACCORD-  
INGLY this Certificate of Incorporation

is hereby issued to the THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION  
COUNCIL, INC.

as of the date hereinafter mentioned.

Date January 18, 1974

PETER S. RIDLEY,  
*Recorder of Deeds, D. C.*

*Alfred Goldstein*  
Alfred Goldstein  
Superintendent of Corporations



ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

THE AMERICAN RIVERS CONSERVATION COUNCIL, INC. JAN 18 1974

FILING FEE  
INDEXING FEE

16.00

2.00

FILED

BY 164

We, the undersigned natural persons of the age of twenty-one years or more, acting as incorporators of a corporation, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation pursuant to the District of Columbia Non-Profit Corporation Act (D.C. Code Sec. 29-1001 et seq.):

First: The name of the corporation is The American Rivers Conservation Council, Inc.

Second: The period of duration is perpetual.

Third: Said corporation is organized for the promotion of social welfare as such term is used within Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, through the promotion of programs leading to the preservation and protection of America's remaining wild and scenic rivers and their immediate environs.

Fourth: The corporation is to be divided into two (2) classes of members. The designation of each class of members, the qualifications and rights of the members of each class, and the conferring, limiting or denying of the right to vote will be as provided in the By-laws.

Fifth: The manner in which Directors shall be elected or appointed shall be provided in the by-laws.

Sixth: No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

Seventh: In the event of dissolution of the corporation or final liquidation, the assets of the Corporation shall become the assets of the Environmental Policy Center, Inc.; if the Environmental Center, Inc., is not in existence at such time, then the Board of Directors shall make such distribution of assets as it deems appropriate, or as may be required by statute.

Eighth: The address of the initial registered office and the name of the initial registered agent of the corporation is: The American Rivers Conservation Council, Inc., 325 "C" Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003. (Brent Blackwelder)

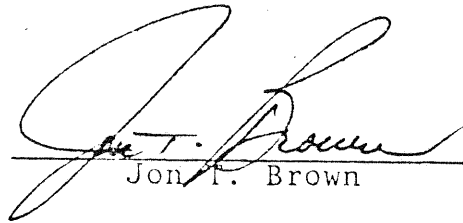
Ninth: The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors is four (4), and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial Directors until the first annual meeting or until their successors be elected and qualified are:

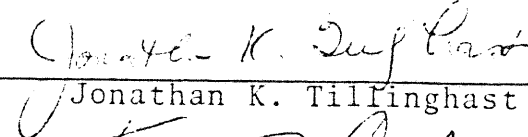
Brent Blackwelder	324 "C" Street, S.E., Washington, D. C. 20003
Deane Hall	300 Third Street, N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002
L. H. Fremont	816 Vannes Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246

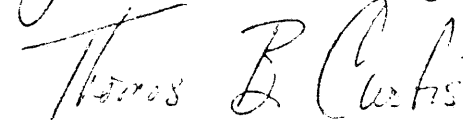
Tenth: The name and address of each incorporator is:

Jon T. Brown	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006
Jonathan K. Tillinghast	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006
Thomas B. Curtis	1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W. Washington, D. C. 20006

January 18, 1974

  
Jon T. Brown

  
Jonathan K. Tillinghast

  
Thomas B. Curtis

Verification

District of Columbia) ss:

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me JON T. BROWN, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires August 14, 1974

Verification

District of Columbia) ss:

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me JONATHAN K. TILLINGHAST, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

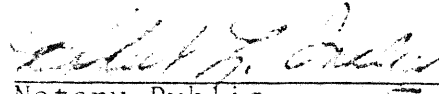
  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires August 14, 1974

Verification

I, Robert L. Gentry, a notary public, do hereby certify that on this 18 day of Jan., 1974, personally appeared before me THOMAS B. CURTIS, who being first duly sworn, declared that he signed the foregoing document as an incorporator

of the corporation, and that the statements therein contained are true.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: My Commission Expires

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CORPORATIONS

DUE APRIL 15, 1983

Filing Fee \$ 1.00  
 Penalty -----  
 Interest -----  
 Total \$ 1.00

DUPLICATE COPY TO BE RETAINED BY CORPORATION  
 SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR FILING FEES, PENALTIES, ETC.  
 MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO D. C. TREASURER  
 NO RECEIPT WILL BE ISSUED; YOUR CHECK IS YOUR RECEIPT  
 MAIL REPORT TO: OFFICE OF RECORDER OF DEEDS, D. C. Corporation  
 Division, Annual Report Section, 6th and D Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001

Indicate if corporation is  
☐ Domestic Profit  
☐ Foreign Profit  
☒ Non-Profit

1. Name of Corporation  
American Rivers Conservation Council  
 2. Organized under the laws of (insert  
 District of Columbia, State or Country)  
D.C.  
 3. If a foreign corporation, the address of its principal office in the state or  
 Country where organized

4. Name of registered agent and address of registered office in the District of  
 Columbia (Do not make change of agent on this form)  
Brent Blackwelder  
American Rivers Conservation Council  
317 Penn. Ave. S.E. D.C. 20003  
 5. Brief statement of business or affairs conducted in the District of Columbia  
Education and lobbying on behalf  
of Free Flowing Rivers  
 6. If a domestic profit corporation, the address including street and number,  
 of principal office in the District of Columbia

7. Name and address, including street and number of directors and officers

	NAME	ADDRESS
Director	<u>Liane Russell</u>	<u>130 Tabor Rd., Oak Ridge, TN 37830</u>
Director	<u>Tom Arnold</u>	<u>212 East Riding Dr., Carlisle MA 01741</u>
Director	<u>Skip Luken</u>	<u>2800 Adams Mill Rd. NW DC 20009</u>
President	<u>Brent Blackwelder</u>	<u>317 Penn. Ave. SE DC 20003</u>
Vice President	<u>Rafe Pomerance</u>	<u>2034 Allen Place NW DC 20009</u>
Secretary	<u>Mike Priesnitz</u>	<u>1371 Albany Ave., St Paul MN 55108</u>
Treasurer	<u>Mike Fremont</u>	<u>816 Van Ness Dr., Cincinnati OH 45246</u>

## DOMESTIC PROFIT CORPORATIONS ANSWER ARTICLES 8 AND 9 (Foreign corporations disregard articles 8 and 9)

8. Aggregate number of shares corporation has authority to issue

NO. OF SHARES	CLASS	SERIES	PAR VALUE PER SHARE OR WITHOUT PAR
------------------	-------	--------	---------------------------------------

9. Aggregate number of shares issued

NO. OF SHARES	CLASS	SERIES	PAR VALUE PER SHARE OR WITHOUT PAR
------------------	-------	--------	---------------------------------------

## FOREIGN PROFIT CORPORATIONS ANSWER ARTICLES 10 THRU 13 (Do not apply to domestic corporations)

10. Date organized

11. Term of existence authorized

☐ perpetual ☐ Limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years

12. Is corporation in good standing in State in which organized?

☐ Yes ☐ No

13. Name of corporation used in the District \*

\*(Add "corporation," "company," "incorporated," "limited" or an abbreviation thereof, if same does not appear in corporate name, otherwise answer same as 1.)

Date 03 - Feb. 1983

By Pat Munoz (signature)

CORPORATE SEAL

Its ☐ Pres. ☐ Vice Pres. ☐ Sec'y  
☐ Asst. Sec'y ☐ Treas. ☐ Asst. Treas. if  
☒ Receiver or Trustee if non-profit corporation

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
 MARION S. BARRY, JR., Mayor  
 Form RD-C44-45 & RD-C54  
 A fee of \$5.00 will be charged  
 for dishonored checks  
 June 1979

(Over)

FILED  
 FEB 16 1983  
 By PA



## **Bylaws**

### ***AMERICAN RIVERS, INC.***

**Adopted, March 12, 1988  
(As amended through May 30, 2009)**

#### **Article I. Name of the Organization**

**Section 1.** The name of the organization shall be American Rivers, Inc.

#### **Article II. Purpose**

**Section 1.** The mission of American Rivers is to protect and restore rivers and the variety of life they sustain, for people, fish and wildlife. The Corporation is organized exclusively for not-for-profit educational and charitable purposes as such term is used in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

#### **Article III. Offices**

**Section 1.** The principal office of the corporation shall be in the District of Columbia. The Corporation may have such other offices, either within or outside the District of Columbia as the Board of Directors may designate or as the business of the Corporation may require from time to time.

#### **Article IV. Membership**

##### **Section 1. Members**

Members of the Corporation shall be non-voting and members shall not have the power to elect the Corporation's Board of Directors, to amend its corporate governing documents, or to otherwise vote on corporate matters. Any person may become a non-voting member by paying annual membership dues and completing a membership application. There shall be no limit to the number of non-voting members. Non-payment of annual dues forfeits membership.

## **Article V. Board of Directors**

### **Section 1. Number of Directors**

The number of Directors shall be no less than 18 and no more than 36 members, as determined at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Election of Directors**

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election of Directors of the Corporation. A Director may be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting at a regular or special meeting at which a quorum is present, pursuant to the following procedures:

- A. The names of potential candidates may be submitted to the Board Governance Committee at any time. The Board Governance Committee shall review the qualifications of proposed candidates, and attest that all candidates approved and proposed by the Committee for election have the necessary qualifications to be members of the Board of Directors, are aware of the roles and responsibilities of Board membership and have agreed to uphold those duties.
- B. Candidates elect shall be invited to participate and vote immediately upon election.

### **Section 3. Removal of Directors**

The Board may remove any officer or director at any meeting. A two-thirds (67%) vote of a quorum of the Board of Directors shall be required to remove a Director of the Corporation.

## **Article VI. Terms of Office of Members of the Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected to the office for a term of three years, in a manner such that approximately thirty-three percent (33%) of the members are subject to election annually. Each term shall begin on the day of the Corporation's annual meeting and shall expire on the day of the annual meeting three years thereafter. The term of Directors elected at a meeting other than the Annual Meeting shall be calculated as if they were elected at the Annual Meeting in the calendar year in which elected. For the purposes of this Article, a "year" is defined as the period between two successive annual meetings.

**Section 2.** No Director may serve more than three successive three-year terms. A person who has formerly served as a Director may be elected again to the Board of Directors provided there has been a period of at least one year between the expiration of the former term(s) and the new term.

**Section 3.** Notwithstanding the limitation of terms described in Section 2, a Director may be elected to serve successive one-year terms as Chairperson of the Board and may serve an additional year as a member of the Board of Directors following the expiration of his or her term as Chairperson.

## **Article VII. Duties of the Board of Directors**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall determine the policy and have fiduciary responsibility for the activities of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election and removal of members of the Executive Committee, for the appointment and removal of members of the Board Governance Committee and Audit Committee, and for the election of additional Directors of the Corporation. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the selection and removal of the President and shall be responsible for setting the compensation of the President.

### **Section 2      Conflict of Interest**

Directors shall serve the corporation with the highest degree of undivided duty, loyalty, and care and shall not profit personally from their positions as Directors. The Corporation shall have a conflicts of interest policy. Each member of the Board of Directors shall review the policy and sign an acknowledgement whereby the member agrees to abide by the provisions of said policy.

Any contract or other financial transaction in which a Director has a direct or indirect material financial interest must be approved by the Board of Directors. No such transaction shall be approved unless the relevant interest is fully disclosed, the interested Director does not vote, and the Board or the Executive Committee authorizes the transaction in good faith by vote of the remaining Directors.

## **Article VIII. Voting Rights**

**Section 1.** Each member of the Board of Directors, including the Chairperson, shall be entitled to one vote. Each vote shall be equal in weight to that of any other Director on any issue that is placed before the Corporation for voting.

## **Article IX. Quorum**

**Section 1.** Thirty-three percent (33%) of current members of the Board of Directors shall comprise a quorum.



## **Article X. Compensation for Expenses**

**Section 1.** By resolution of the Executive Committee, the Directors may be paid their expenses, if any, for their attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee or for any other duly called Committee meeting of the Corporation.

Subject to the foregoing, members of the Board of Directors shall not be compensated for performing the normal duties of a Board member, such as attending Board meetings and participating on Board Committees.

## **Article XI. Officers**

**Section 1.** The officers of the Corporation shall be the Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. In addition, the Board of Directors may elect any other officers it deems advisable, including one or more Assistant Secretaries.

The term of office shall be one year. Officers shall hold office until successors have been duly elected and qualified, or until death, resignation, or removal.

## **Article XII. Election of Officers**

**Section 1.** Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its Annual Meeting.

**Section 2.** The Board of Directors shall appoint a Board Governance Committee consisting of at least three (3) persons.

**Section 3.** The Board Governance Committee shall select candidates for nomination to the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Executive Committee to be voted upon by the Corporation at the Annual Meeting. If a vacancy occurs in any of the officer positions stated above between Annual Meetings of the Corporation, the Board Governance Committee shall appoint a new officer until a new candidate has been duly elected and qualified at the next Annual Meeting.

**Section 4.** The Board Governance Committee shall present a list of candidates for nomination to the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large members of the Executive Committee to the Corporation at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting. There shall be at least one candidate nominated for each of these offices.

**Section 5.** In addition to the candidates for offices presented by the Board Governance Committee at the Annual Meeting, other candidates may be placed in nomination at the Annual Meeting.

**Section 6.** Election to any office shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting in the presence of a quorum and the matter shall be carried by a majority vote of the Directors present.

## **Article XIII. Duties of Officers**

### **Section 1. Duties of the Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall be responsible for the (a) notice of meetings; (b) presiding over meetings, and; (c) the appointment of all other positions, including Board Committee positions, not specifically provided for elsewhere in these bylaws; and (d) performing all other duties as from time to time may be necessary. The Chairperson is authorized to enter into any contract and/or execute any document on behalf of the Corporation.

### **Section 2. Duties of the Vice Chair**

In the absence of the Chairperson, or in the event that he or she is unable to perform his/her duties, the Vice Chair shall fulfill the duties of the Chairperson.

### **Section 3. Duties of the Secretary**

The Secretary shall ensure that minutes of the meetings are kept and have oversight responsibility for the archives and history of the Corporation, including minutes of all past Board and Executive Committee meetings. The Secretary is authorized to certify legal documents on behalf of the Corporation.

### **Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer**

The Treasurer has the responsibility to manage the Board's review of and actions related to key financial matters, including the annual budget and to work with the chief financial officer to ensure that appropriate financial reports are made available to the Board on a timely basis.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Assistant Secretary**

The Assistant Secretary, if the Corporation elects any, shall have the same duties and responsibilities as the Secretary and shall be empowered to act as Secretary if the Secretary is unavailable.

## **Article XIV. Meetings of the Corporation**

### **Section 1. Annual Meeting**

The Corporation will hold at least one meeting of the Board of Directors annually. Each Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held at a time set by the Executive Committee for the purpose of electing Directors and for the transaction of such other

business as may come before the meeting.

**Section 2. Special Meetings**

Special Meetings of the Board of Directors, for any purpose or purposes, may be called by the Chairperson or the Executive Committee, unless otherwise prescribed by statute.

**Section 3. Place of Meeting**

The Executive Committee may designate any place, either within or outside the District of Columbia, as the place of the Annual Meeting. If no designation is made, the place of the meeting shall be in the District of Columbia.

**Section 4. Meetings By Conference Telephone**

Any meeting of the Corporation may be conducted by conference telephone or by any other means of communication by which all persons participating in the meeting are able to hear one another. Such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

**Section 5. Notice of Meeting**

Notice of any meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given in the manner prescribed by resolution of the Board of Directors. Except as noted below, if the Board has not passed such a resolution, notice stating the place, day, and hour of the meeting, and in case of a special meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called, shall be delivered not less than ten (10) and not more than fifty (50) days before the date of the meeting, at the direction of the President to each member of the Board of Directors. Such notice may be written or oral, may be given personally, by first class mail, by facsimile, by e-mail, by telegram, or by phone, and shall state the place, date and time of the meeting. If notice is given by oral communication or by phone, it must be confirmed promptly by first class mail, by facsimile, by e-mail, or by telegram. Notice shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the U.S. Mail with postage prepaid, addressed to the last known address of the member, or when delivered by fax, e-mail, or telegram to the last known fax number, e-mail address, or address of the member.

In the event of an emergency, as determined jointly by the Chairperson and President, such as, for example, in the event of an attack upon the United States, an emergency meeting may be convened without notice. Any action taken at such emergency meeting shall be effective until ratified or rejected by the Board of Directors at its next annual or special meeting.

**Section 6. Rules of Procedure**

Rules of parliamentary procedure, as identified by Roberts Rules of Order, shall govern all meetings of the Corporation unless contrary to the rules of procedure of these By-Laws, in which case the By-Laws shall govern.

## **Section 7. Action Without a Meeting**

The Board of Directors may conduct any of its affairs without a meeting if all of the Directors entitled to vote on the relevant subject matter give signed, written consent to the action on a document which sets forth the specific action to be taken.

## **Article XV. Committees**

### **Section 1. Required Committees**

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, a Board Governance Committee of the Board of Directors and an Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

### **Section 2. Executive Committee**

The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected, and the Committee shall operate, in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI. It shall be the function of the Executive Committee to act for the Board of Directors as may be required in between Board meetings. A member may be elected to or removed from the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the membership of the Board of Directors at a regular or special meeting.

### **Section 3. Board Governance Committee**

The members of the Board Governance Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article XII. The Committee will have the functions specified in Article XII, will nominate candidates for election to the Board of Directors, and will generally be responsible for Board governance matters

### **Section 4. Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee shall oversee the selection, hiring, and monitoring of the outside auditor, review the auditor's report and submit the audit report to the full Board. The Audit Committee will also review the annual filing of the IRS Form 990 on behalf of the Board prior to its submission to the IRS. The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of Article VII.

### **Section 5. Compensation Committee**

The Chairperson, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the organization's Compensation Committee. The Committee shall periodically review and recommend to the Board of Directors any salary and fringe benefit adjustments for

the President. The Committee shall periodically review the performance of the President and make a report to the Board of Directors. The Committee shall periodically receive the President's recommendation regarding salary and fringe benefits of any employee that meets the criteria for classification as a "key employee" based on the IRS's definition in the Form 990. The Committee will follow the Corporation's Compensation Policy to determine the appropriate salary for the President and other key employees of the organization.

**Section 6. Establishment of Other Committees**

The Board of Directors may establish such other committees as it deems necessary to conduct its business in an efficient manner, and shall determine the functions of such other committees.

**Section 7. Rules**

Each committee may adopt rules for its own governance not inconsistent with these Bylaws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

**Article XVI. Executive Committee**

**Section 1. Selection, Number, Tenure, and Qualifications**

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the election of members of the Executive Committee. The number of members of the Executive Committee shall be up to nine (9) in number. Members of the Executive Committee must be members of the Board of Directors to qualify for election.

**Section 2. Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings of the Executive Committee shall be held from time to time as warranted.

**Section 3. Special Meetings**

Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called at the request of the Chairperson or any three members of the Committee.

**Section 4. Notice of Special Meetings**

Notice of a special meeting shall be given at least three (3) days previously thereto by written notice, e-mail, fax, or telephone, and shall include the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is being called. The participation of a member of the Committee in a Special Meeting shall constitute waiver of notice.

**Section 5. Quorum**

A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 6. Manner of Acting**

The act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Executive Committee.

**Section 7 Minutes**

The Secretary shall ensure the preparation of minutes describing any actions of the Committee and shall distribute them to the Board of Directors within a reasonable time following the meeting.

**Article XVII. Management**

**Section 1. President**

Subject to overall review by the Board of Directors, the business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the President elected by the Board of Directors. The President is authorized to hire staff and other personnel necessary to carry out the purposes of the organization and to incur and make payment for expenses necessary to permit efficient operation of the Corporation.

**Section 2. Contracts**

The President is authorized to enter into contracts and sign legal documents on behalf of the Corporation and to designate such signatory authority to other employees. Finally, the Board of Directors may authorize additional officers or representatives to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument on behalf of the Corporation; such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

**Section 2. Loans**

The President is authorized to contract for loans upon authorization by the Executive Committee. Such authorization shall be confined to specific instances. In no event shall any loan be made by the Corporation to any officer, director or member.

**Section 3. Checks, Drafts, Etc.**

All orders for the payment of money shall be signed by the Chairperson or President, or by any employee designated in writing by the President, provided that orders for the payment of money exceeding an amount to be determined by the Chairperson and the President shall require the signature of two authorized persons. From time to time, the Board of Directors may authorize additional representatives of the Corporation to sign checks or orders for the payment of money by resolution of the Board. Such resolution

shall specify the extent of the authority granted.

**Section 4. Deposits**

All funds of the Corporation not otherwise employed shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks or other depositories as the President shall select upon review by the Executive Committee.

**Article XVIII. Fiscal Year**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year shall be July 1 - June 30.

**Article XIX. Corporate Seal**

**Section 1.** The Board of Directors shall provide a Corporate Seal.

**Article XX. Indemnification**

**Section 1.** The Corporation shall indemnify its Directors, Officers, and committee members to the fullest extent permitted by the law of the District of Columbia.

**Article XXI. Amendments**

**Section 1.** These bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by the Board of Directors at any regular or special meeting, upon thirty days advance written notice prior to such meeting.

**Article XXII. Effective Date**

**Section 1.** These bylaws shall become effective upon adoption by the Directors of the Corporation.

*By majority vote of a quorum of the voting members and Directors of American Rivers, Inc.,  
these bylaws were approved and adopted the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson



**Internal Revenue Service**

**Date:** May 6, 2004

American Rivers Inc  
1025 Vermont Ave NW STE 720  
Washington, DC 20005-6319

**Department of the Treasury**  
**P. O. Box 2508**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45201**

**Person to Contact:**  
Ms. Dalton 31-07967  
Customer Service Representative  
**Toll Free Telephone Number:**  
8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. EST  
877-829-5500  
**Fax Number:**  
513-263-3756  
**Federal Identification Number:**  
23-7305963

Dear Sir or Madam:

This is in response to your request of March 19, 2004 regarding a copy of your organization's exemption application and letter of determination.

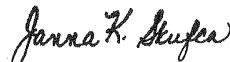
We were unable to locate these documents. However, we can affirm that your organization received exempt status in September 1984 and is currently exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because your organization will not be able to provide a copy of its application on request, it should keep a copy of this letter in its permanent records.

If your organization filed for exemption after July 15, 1987, or had a copy of the application on July 15, 1987, it is required to make available for public inspection a copy of its exemption application, any supporting documents, and the exemption letter to any individual who requests such documents in person or in writing. The law also requires you to make your organization's annual return (if you are required to file one) available for public inspection for three years after the due date of the return. You can charge only a reasonable fee for reproduction and actual postage costs for the copied materials. The law does not require you to provide copies of public inspection documents that are widely available, such as by posting them on the Internet (World Wide Web). You may be liable for a penalty of \$20 a day for each day you do not make these documents available for public inspection (up to a maximum of \$10,000 in the case of an annual return).

Please accept our apology for the delay in responding to your request and for any inconvenience this may have caused you or your organization.

If you have any questions, please call us at the telephone number shown in the heading of this letter.

Sincerely,



Janna K. Skufca, Director, TE/GE  
Customer Account Services



## 6. Project Summary

**County:** Tuolumne County

**Applicant:** American Rivers

**Project Title:** Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls

### PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of this project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls* is to remove the threat of development from Ackerson Meadow through acquisition, protection, and restoration of this keystone habitat, and through this initial action, jump start a movement to protect all remaining vital habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. This project is supported by a growing partnership of organizations including: American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy. More specifically, implementation of the full project will contribute to Proposition 84 goals by increasing: 1) riparian and aquatic habitat for a range of special status species; 2) water storage and flood attenuation capacity; and 3) water quality.

### PROJECT SCOPE

The Ackerson Meadow Project is designed to proceed in five successive steps including: 1) appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment; 2) acquisition of Ackerson Meadow; 3) transfer of title to National Park Service; 4) in depth assessment and development of meadow restoration plan; and 5) implementation of meadow restoration plan and performance monitoring. With this proposal, we request funding from SNC for activity 1: appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment.

The conservation outcomes that will result from full implementation of this project are many and will be monitored closely throughout the project. These include:

- Restore and protect watershed services provided by Ackerson Meadow including attenuating flood flows, summer base flows, and water quality
- Restore and protect wildlife services provided by Ackerson Meadow including habitat for birds and bats, and most particularly, Great Gray Owls
- Jump start a movement to protect and restore the remaining critical meadow habitat for the Great Gray Owls in California and to manage this landscape as an ecological whole

This project is requesting \$65,500 from SNC to implement this first activity. The project team is fully capable of all aspects of project management to ensure successful implementation. American Rivers will provide overall project management and coordination, and technical expertise in the assessment process. The Institute for Bird Populations will also assist with the assessment work, while the Pacific Forest Trust will oversee the appraisal and due diligence process.

### LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Rodney Siegel, Institute for Bird Populations

Megan Wargo, Pacific Forest Trust

Graham Chisholm, Audubon California

John Buckley, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center

### SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

<b>DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Finalized Workplan and Budget (Task 1)	June 30, 2011
Signed Subcontracts/grants with Project Partners (Task 1)	July 30, 2011
Biannual Financial and Performance Reports (Task 1)	December 15, 2011
Final Report (Task 1)	May 31, 2012
Contract with Appraiser (Task 2)	July 30, 2011
Finalized Appraisal (Task 2)	November 30, 2011
Contract for Due Diligence Work (Task 3)	October 31, 2011
Finalized Due Diligence Report	March 30, 2012
Final Assessment Protocol and MP (Task 4)	July 30, 2011
Final Meadow Assessment Technical Memo (Task 4)	April 15, 2012

### **SNC PROJECT COSTS**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES</b>	<b>TOTAL SNC FUNDING</b>
Staff/Personnel Expense – Project Related Wages/Benefits/Occupancy	\$ 15,974.35
Travel/Meeting Expense - Project Related	\$ 2,000.00
Subgrants/Contracts/Consultants - Project Related	\$ 24,600.00
Materials/Supplies - Project Related	\$ 110.00
Equipment Leases/Purchases - Project Dependent	\$ 1,036.33
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement	\$ 17,000.00
Performance Measure reporting	\$ 2,487.00
Administrative Costs	\$ 2,292.32
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 65,500.00</b>

### (a) Project Quality and Readiness

#### General Description

**Ackerson Meadow.** Ackerson Meadow is a 415 acre, privately-owned meadow in Tuolumne County which consists primarily of Sierra Mixed Conifer and wet meadow habitat. The meadow is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness, through the property for a mile, and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As Ackerson Creek cuts through the meadow, it is downcut from 5-15 feet resulting in dewatering of the meadow through the early and late summer season.

Despite this degradation, the meadow harbors a wealth of species. The incredible spring native wildflower displays in the meadow are a well-known local attraction, and the meadow is one of a few large mid-elevation complexes where wildflower and grass diversity are considered very high. In addition, local fishermen report that the Rainbow Trout in the creek are frequently over two feet in length and the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates is equally impressive. Western Pond Turtles (California Species of Special Concern) are also known to live in the meadow. Further, the meadow has been studied by numerous ecologists over the last 30 years and it is renowned for its ecological significance. For example, many significant bird sightings have been made here, some notable for their appearance at this unexpected elevation, including nesting by Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern) and Savannah Sparrows. In addition, Ackerson Meadow is one of few mid-elevation meadows reliably used by Willow Flycatchers during the breeding season (listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Spotted Owls nest nearby, and even a California Yellow-billed Cuckoo (listed by California as an Endangered Species and by the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 as a Sensitive Species) has been recorded in the meadow. The meadow is also used by Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern) in the breeding season, and by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern). Additionally, it is widely understood that Ackerson Meadow has the highest density of Great Grey Owls known to exist in the Sierra and State and federal biologists publicly state that Ackerson Meadow is a vital nesting site for the owls with at least three nesting pairs. Finally, the Avian Conservation Plan for the Sierra Nevada rates the protection of montane meadows such as Ackerson as the #1 priority for conservation.

**Great Gray Owls.** The Great Gray Owl which is North America's largest owl has been designated a State-endangered raptor in California due to a limited geographic distribution and an estimated statewide census population size of 100-200 individuals (Winter 1980; Rich 2000). The core breeding distribution of California great gray owls in the Sierra Nevada is centered in Yosemite National Park and the adjacent Stanislaus and Sierra National Forests. The owl is dependent on riparian/meadow habitat for foraging.

**Threats to Ackerson Meadow and the Great Gray Owls.** Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, Ackerson Meadow is just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park. This is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. Thus, imminent development is the meadow's greatest threat. In addition, continued downcutting of the Ackerson Creek will result in degradation of meadow services and loss of habitat.

The Sierra Nevada population of Great Gray Owls is at high risk of population decline or extinction due to a number of threats. Intense human development pressures at lower elevations threaten both breeding and wintering great gray owl habitat because the foothill regions of the Sierra Nevada are experiencing among the greatest human population growth rates of any region in California (Millar 1996). The Great Gray Owl is very rare in California with a tenuously fragmented distribution pattern. The greatest concentration of these owls is in the greater Yosemite area with Ackerson Meadow at the epicenter of

this population. This is where a major recovery effort should be directed, without which the future of this species in California may be intractable.

**Conservation Opportunity.** Ackerson Meadow does not exist in isolation, but is part of a stunning and sprawling complex of meadows that extend from the park boundary to the historic community of Groveland providing a corridor of habitat across the landscape. The entire system needs to be managed as a whole if this unique Great Gray Owl population is going to survive, but at present, there is no coordinated effort to protect this meadow complex as an ecological whole. In addition to Ackerson Meadow, the associated 1,100-acre meadow system in Groveland is also up for sale. Purchasing and protecting Ackerson Meadow will provide a foothold for jump-starting a larger strategy to protect this complex of meadows primarily for Great Gray Owl habitat, but also to protect the numerous other unique species that live in these ecosystems. Yosemite National Park is eager to take title to the property and protect it in perpetuity once funds are raised for the purchase. Towards this point, in the 1980s Congressman Lehman requested that the Park identify areas for potential acquisition – Ackerson Meadow topped this list. In short, this is the greatest opportunity to protect and restore habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. The cost of no action for this species cannot be overstated. An initial assessment indicates that with a small effort in restoration, this meadow system could be brought back to pristine condition.

**Project Goal and Activities.** The overall goal of this project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls* is to remove the threat of development from Ackerson Meadow through acquisition, protection, and restoration of this keystone habitat, and through this initial action, jump start a movement to protect all remaining vital habitat for Great Gray Owls in the Sierra. Initial project activities will include: 1) appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment; 2) acquisition of Ackerson Meadow; 3) transfer of title to National Park Service; 4) in depth assessment and development of meadow restoration plan; and 5) implementation of meadow restoration plan and performance monitoring. With this proposal, we request funding from SNC for activity 1: appraisal of property, due diligence, and environmental assessment. This project is supported by a growing partnership of organizations including: American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy.

**Conservation Outcomes.** The conservation outcomes that will result from full implementation of this project are many and will be monitored closely throughout the project. These include:

- Restore and protect watershed services provided by Ackerson Meadow including attenuating flood flows, summer base flows, and water quality
- Restore and protect wildlife services provided by Ackerson Meadow including habitat for birds and bats, and most particularly, Great Gray Owls
- Jump start a movement to protect and restore the remaining critical meadow habitat for the Great Gray Owls in California and to manage this landscape as an ecological whole

**Part of Larger Conservation Effort and Priority Project.** This project is part of a new initiative spearheaded by American Rivers and several other groups in the Sierra, and funded in part by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see Sierra Nevada Meadow Restoration at <http://www.nfwf.org>). The intent of this effort is to explore the possibility of meadow restoration being a viable “green infrastructure” alternative to building new dams to store water from the earlier melt of the Sierra snowpack as a result of climate change, while at the same time, providing water quality benefits and critical habitat.

In addition, protection of Ackerson Meadow has been among the highest priorities of Yosemite National Park since 1985. For the past five years, the Pacific Forest Trust and other project partners have been working closely with Yosemite National Park on the *Yosemite Area Conservation Project*, to protect the

Western border of the Park by purchasing significant, priority inholdings to permanently eliminate the development threats. With the support of the Resources Legacy Fund Foundation and landowner donations, Pacific Forest Trust has completed its first phase of acquisitions in 2006 to permanently protect approximately 1,000 acres. During this first phase of acquisitions, the landowners of Ackerson Meadow were contacted about working to permanently protect their property either through an easement or a fee title sale, and they were not interested. However, recently, the property changed hands and was sold to a landowner who is interested in the possibility of providing permanent protection to the property. The Nature Conservancy's *Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan* (1999) also highlights this property as a high priority protection site, naming it as the highest density of Great Gray Owls found in California. The Audubon Society has also acknowledged the importance of Ackerson Meadow to California's bird habitats, by giving it a specific mention in its Sierra Meadow-Important Bird Areas (IBA) Report.

## **Workplan and Schedule**

Below we describe a detailed workplan that includes specific tasks and subtasks. In addition, we provide information on deliverables per each task, including a schedule of each deliverable – details that are critical to ensure that the project will be implemented in a timely manner. This schedule assumes a June 1, 2011 start date and May 31, 2012 end date. In addition, each task describes the project partner who is responsible for implementing the tasks and the methods that will be used. The project team is fully staffed and is ready to proceed once funding is made available. At present, there are no foreseeable factors affecting the project's timeline.

### **Task 1. Management and Performance Measures**

The project team recognizes that project management and administration is a critical aspect of a successful project. Under this task, American Rivers will take the lead in fiscal management, reporting requirements, finalizing the workplan, developing and managing subcontracts, convening project team meetings, developing and disseminating project information, and coordinating with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In addition, under this task, American Rivers with the assistance of the project partners, will report on project performance.

- 1.1. Convene Project Team Meetings
- 1.2. Finalize Workplan and Budget
- 1.3. Draft and Finalize Subcontracts/grants
- 1.4. Finalize and Track Performance Measures
- 1.5. Manage Project Budget
- 1.6. Submit Financial and Performance Reports
- 1.7. Draft and submit Final Report

<b>Task 1 Deliverables</b>	<b>Responsible Partners</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Finalized Workplan and Budget	American Rivers	June 30, 2011
Signed Subcontracts/grants with Project Partners	American Rivers	July 30, 2011
Biannual Financial and Performance Reports	American Rivers with support from partners	December 15, 2011
Final Report	American Rivers with support from partners	May 31, 2012

### **Task 2: Ackerson Meadow Property Appraisal**

Task 2, which will be implemented by the Pacific Forest Trust, will involve completing a comprehensive real estate appraisal including timber, personal property and minerals (if appropriate) that is based on current market values and conducted by a State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser who is certified as a Master Appraiser by the Appraisal Institute, and experienced in doing appraisals for state agencies. The appraisal will be prepared in accordance with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice. The result of this task will be an appraisal report that includes, at a minimum, the following: 1.

Title page including the Application Number; 2) Letter of transmittal (brief summary of important conclusions; market value, date of valuation, etc.); 3) Table of contents; 4) Photographs, plat, legal description of property, name of current owner. 5) Map showing all sales in relation to subject property; 6) Sales sheets which disclose information on sales such as Grantor/Grantee; zoning; access; brief description of improvements; sale and recording dates; party sale confirmed with; information to locate sales such as street address, post mile, distance from local landmarks such as bridges, road intersections, structures, etc.; and terms of sale; 7) Photographs and plats of sale properties; 8) Analysis of area surrounding subject property; 9) Highest and best use (if controversial, discuss fully); 10) Description of improvements; 11) Discussion of sales comparing them directly to subject; 12) The three approaches to market value (if any of the three approaches are inapplicable, explain why); 13) Discussion of severance damage (or lack of damage) where a partial take is involved; 14) Effect of title exceptions on market value; and 15) Correlation and final estimate of market value (summarize the reasons supporting conclusions). Subtasks include the following:

- 2.1 Draft appraisal scope of work and put out for bid
- 2.2 Review responses and contract with chosen appraiser
- 2.3 Conduct real estate appraisal
- 2.4 Submit to SNC for pre-approval review
- 2.5 Submit to the State for approval
- 2.6 Meet with owner and discuss results and determine next steps for acquisition

Task 2 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Contract with Appraiser	Pacific Forest Trust	July 30, 2011
Finalized Appraisal	Pacific Forest Trust	November 30, 2011

### **Task 3: Ackerson Meadow Environmental Due Diligence**

Task 3 will be lead by the Pacific Forest Trust and will result in an environmental due diligence report for Ackerson Meadow. Pacific Forest Trust will undertake the following steps: 1) visual assessment of site conditions; 2) development of historical property uses which will involve the collection of current and historical site maps, identification of former occupants, and review of major infrastructure; 3) file reviews including taxes and assessments, and current and historical permits for uses on the land; 4) phase one environmental assessment; 5) review of water, mineral and timber rights; and 6) structural assessment. Results from all of the tasks are evaluated and compiled in a formal report, which includes recommendations, and if necessary, costs to be expected for future investigative tasks.

- 3.1 Draft due diligence scope of work and put out for bid
- 3.2 Review responses and contract for work
- 3.3 Conduct environmental due diligence
- 3.4 Due Diligence Report Finalized
- 3.5 Determine future tasks, if needed

Task 3 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Contract for Due Diligence Work	Pacific Forest Trust	October 31, 2011
Finalized Due Diligence Report	Pacific Forest Trust	March 30, 2012

### **Task 4: Ackerson Meadow Assessment**

The intent of Task 4 is to initiate a field study to assess the status of Ackerson Meadow and develop initial conceptual restoration designs. This assessment work will build on and synthesize previous efforts and studies associated with Ackerson Meadow and include: assessing surface and groundwater hydrology, stream channel and meadow morphology, instream ecology, water quality, soils, vegetation, and bird surveys. American Rivers and Institute for Bird Populations will provide the technical lead in this task. Subtasks are articulated below:

- 4.1 Draft assessment protocol and monitoring plan (MP)



- 4.2 Field test assessment protocol and make necessary adjustments
- 4.3 Conduct field assessment and analyze data
- 4.4 Draft technical memo on status of the Ackerson Meadow and conceptual restoration designs
- 4.5 Finalize Memo based on input from agencies, property owner and other stakeholders

Task 4 Deliverables	Responsible Partners	Due Date
Final Assessment Protocol and MP	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	July 30, 2011
Analyzed Data Sets	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	December 31, 2011
Final Meadow Assessment Technical Memo	American Rivers, Institute for Bird Populations	April 15, 2012

## **Budget**

**In-Kind Support and Other Sources of Funding.** We have not applied to other agencies for funding for Activity 1 of this proposal (appraisal, due diligence and assessment), but project partners have applied to both the Yosemite Conservancy and NFWF for partial funding for acquisition (Activity 2).

**Request to SNC.** Funding from the SNC grant will be used to implement activities associated with all tasks described in this proposal.

**Dependent on Other Sources of Funding.** Funding from SNC will be sufficient to complete Activity 1 of this project as described in this proposal.

**Match.** The SNC grant funds that are sought with this proposal will not be used as a match against other state generated funds.

**Cost Effectiveness.** Compared to other projects, the proposed project is cost effective for several reasons. The project team is experienced in property appraisals, due diligence, and meadow assessment and will require very little research or equipment to move forward. Further, the team is fully staffed and has well-defined working relationships.

## **Status of Agreements and Land Tenure**

All project partners are fully supportive of this project and ready to implement their tasks, as well as coordinate on overall project implementation. This collaboration is firmly established and is reflected in the letters of support from partner organizations. The owners of Ackerson Meadow who have been consulted in the development of this proposal are supportive of the proposed activities.

### **(b) Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits**

Ackerson Meadow is part of a rare meadow system uniquely found at higher elevations (4600 feet). Nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that originates in Yosemite National Park, flows through the property and then into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As the Creek flows through the property, it helps create a unique wet meadow system that provides critical habitat for wildlife species and creates a link between the National Park and Stanislaus National Forest. Due to its important wet meadows, water resources, wildlife habitat and historical sites, the property is considered to be not just an inholding within public lands, but an integral part of the Yosemite Ecosystem.

As described above, the tasks we propose are the critical steps needed to lead to the acquisition and full-scale restoration of this meadow. Once these tasks are completed, the project team will seek funding for acquisition and restoration design and implementation.

Below, we describe the direct benefits of this phase of the project as well as the long-term expected impacts of full implementation. For the long-term benefits to rivers, associated lands, and other natural resources, we provide scientific justification for these expected impacts. The project team will implement pre- and post-restoration monitoring to quantify these expected impacts. The data that we will collect as part of the assessment in this phase will form the baseline for the impact monitoring.

### Near-Term Impacts (Activity 1)

- **State-Certified General Real Estate Appraisal of Ackerson Meadow.** This appraisal is a critical step to be able to get funding for acquisition.
- **Ackerson Meadow Due-Diligence Report.** This research and report is important to understanding the history and any potential issues associated with the property.
- **Integrated Assessment of a Critical, Priority Meadow.** This phase of the project will provide an integrated assessment of Ackerson Meadow to determine current conditions and resources.

### Long-Term Impacts (Full Implementation of Project)

Below we describe the long-term impacts of the project that will occur as a result of acquisition and restoration of Ackerson Meadow including restoration targets based on a review of the literature, past experience and the potential at Ackerson Meadow:

- **Increase Bird Habitat, Richness, and Abundance.** The restoration of Ackerson Meadow is expected to result in a 30% increase in bird community abundance index; and a 40% increase in bird community richness index (Green et al 2003) with positive impacts on the following species: Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern that has been observed nesting in the meadow), Savannah Sparrows, Willow Flycatchers (who use the meadow during the breeding season and are listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Spotted Owls (who nest nearby), and Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern who are frequently seen in the meadow).
- **Increase Bat Habitat.** The meadow is used by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern).
- **Increase Habitat for Great Grey Owl.** As mentioned in this proposal, Ackerson Meadow is a keystone habitat for Great Grey Owls and restoration of the meadow is expected to increase the quality of the habitat for these species as they are dependent on riparian/meadow habitat for foraging.
- **Increased Meadow Plant Species.** This restoration is expected to provide a 20% increase in wet meadow plant species, including a number of special status plant species such as the yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower (*Mimulus pulchellus*), Small's southern clarkia (*Clarkia australis*), and slender-stemmed monkeyflower (*Mimulus filicaulis*), of which there are only two other reported occurrences in the subregion.
- **Increase in Native Fish and Aquatic Species.** The native Rainbow Trout found in Ackerson Creek are frequently over two feet in length and the number and diversity of macroinvertebrates is equally impressive. Western Pond Turtles (California Species of Special Concern) are also known to live in the meadow. The project team expects an increase in these species due to the restoration, as well as a 10% increase in population numbers of Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frogs.
- **Increased water storage capacity.** This project will quantify increases in water storage capacity as a result of restoration in Ackerson Meadow. We expect a 30% increase in summer base flows (Kavvas et al. 1994, Plumas Corporation 2006, Flint et al., 2004) as a result of meadow restoration.
- **Reduction in peak stage of floods.** Preliminary studies suggest a potential 15% reduction in peak stage of floods in meadows with restored connection between channel and floodplain. We expect similar results in Ackerson Creek.



- **Lower water temperatures.** These meadows will be reconnected to the groundwater table through restoration which usually results in lower summer water temperatures downstream of the restoration site (Loheid and Gohelic 2006). A reduction in average summer daily water temperature of 4 degrees F is expected downstream of Ackerson Meadow as a result of restoration.
- **Decreased sediment.** Reconnecting the meadows with the floodplain will reduce erosion and sediment delivery (Kavvas et al. 1994). We expect a 15% decrease in downstream fine sediment delivery.

**Addresses Existing and Potential Threats.** Ackerson Meadow has been proposed for subdivision and residential development. The acquisition and transfer of Ackerson Meadow to Yosemite National Park and the restoration of the meadow system will ensure that the tract remains in natural forest and meadow habitats and that existing wildlife habitat will be restored as a cohesive unit with the forests, riparian areas and meadow systems connected. Ackerson Creek, which flows through the meadow, is downcut from 5-15 feet resulting in dewatering of the meadow through the early and late summer season. It is likely that this downcutting will continue unless actions are taken to restore the natural elevation of the creek. The project will address this issue through future planning and technical designs that restore natural hydrology including reducing downcutting and increasing flooding frequency of the meadow.

**Performance Measures and Quantifying Benefits.** In terms of monitoring progress, the Project Team will develop a suite of performance measures (Task 1) that include output measures (e.g. deliverables, etc). Included in this performance monitoring are the SNC Performance Measures as outlined in section 9 of this proposal. In addition, the full implementation of this project will carefully assess, predict, monitor, and quantify a range of ecosystem services before, during and after restoration, including water quality, summer flows, flood attenuation, habitat, and forage production.

**Sustainability of Project.** The full implementation of this project will include a restoration design using projections of future precipitation and hydrology under climate change scenarios to ensure that the restoration is robust and sustainable over time. Restoration projects that are not sized or designed to accommodate future projected flows are at a risk of “blowing out”.

**Climate Change.** The Sierra Nevada is considered the most vulnerable location in the continental United States to the warming trends expected from climate change due to the relatively warm nature of its snowpack. Under climate change scenarios, the magnitude of peak flows is expected to increase, thereby increasing flood risk. Properly functioning meadows operate as floodplains that temporarily store floodwaters and reduce flood peaks downstream. Meadows can also store water beneath the surface and release it back into the stream more slowly over the dry summer months. Thus, it is expected that healthy mountain meadows will help mitigate the adverse changes expected from global warming. In addition, there is strong evidence that restored meadows sequester carbon. With restoration, Sierra meadows experience a radical change in plant community type and overall plant biomass: in many cases sparse herbaceous cover and scattered sagebrush is replaced with a thick cover of sedges and willow species supported by dense rooting structures (Chambers and Miller 2004, Lindquist and Wilcox 2000). Studies in restored versus unrestored meadows in the Feather River watershed show that restoring meadows could provide an increase in below ground carbon stores of 110 to 220 CO<sub>2</sub>e tons per acre over a 2 to 10 year post-restoration period (Wilcox et. al unpublished project results 2009).

**Measuring Progress.** As a result of this phase of the project, we will be able to quantify and analyze important meadow-specific parameters to determine the overall condition of Ackerson Meadow. These attributes include vegetation functional status and composition/distribution, water storage capacity, meadow topography, bird populations, fish populations, benthic macroinvertebrate composition, water table levels, stream channel dimension, and erosion rates. In addition to informing the conceptual restoration design, this information will serve as pre-restoration baseline data that can be used to measure the performance of future restoration.

### (c) SNC Program Goals

This project is designed specifically to provide and integrate multiple benefits, including ecological, hydrological, and recreational. These benefits are described in more detail in the Table below.

SNC Goals - Primary	Project Contribution
<b>(a). Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation</b>	Once purchased, Ackerson Meadow will be transferred to Yosemite National Park for public use and recreation. Conservation of Ackerson Meadow will enhance public access, education, and recreation opportunities, as it permits public access to previously private areas. Ackerson Meadow is already identified as an important birding spot in a number of travel books including the <i>Lone Planet Guide to Yosemite National Park</i> , which names Ackerson Meadow as the place to see the great gray owl, “Yosemite’s most famous and sought after bird.” Including the meadow in Yosemite National Park will ensure that the meadow will never be developed and will always be available for public enjoyment and compatible recreation. In addition, the property forms the scenic backdrop to several country roads, including the relatively well-traveled Evergreen Road, which are used by tourists driving through the backcountry. Conservation will preserve the scenic quality of these roads, which is consistent with the Tuolumne County General Plan’s Scenic Resources section.
<b>(b). Protect, conserve, and restore the region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources.</b>	The Ackerson Meadow property is one of the principal cultural resource locations for Yosemite Native American activities. Bedrock mortars, extensive artifacts, and several cultural-archeological sites have been identified on the property. Acquisition and conservation of the property will preserve these cultural artifacts. As discussed earlier, conservation of this tract will also protect the rare wet meadow ecosystem that provides critical wildlife habitat for endangered plant and animal species, nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that flows into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River, and critical ecosystem linkages between Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest.
<b>(e). Protect and improve water and air quality</b>	The conservation of Ackerson Meadow will provide significant protections for the water resources on the property including: protective riparian buffers above the CA Forest Practices Act requirements, as well as a limit on activities that could cause erosion or run-off on the property, and forest management that will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires that could lead to sedimentation of Ackerson Creek. Once transferred into National Park ownership, the property will also receive permanent water protection by eliminating the risk of development and overgrazing along the Creek and in the wet meadow system.

**Performance Measures and Monitoring and Evaluation.** Please see response to similar question under section (b) above.

### (d) Cooperation and Community Support

**Project Partners.** This project is offered by a diverse and strong partnership including American Rivers, The Pacific Forest Trust, The Institute for Bird Populations, Yosemite National Park, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, Sierra Foothill Conservancy, Tuolumne County Land Trust, Audubon Society, and Sierra Forest Legacy. The project is fully staffed and ready to proceed as indicated by the attached Letters of Support from each of the partner organizations who are involved in this phase of the project.

**Community Support and Stakeholder Process.** Over the past five years, the Pacific Forest Trust has partnered with Yosemite National Park to identify properties along the Park's western border that have significant resource values and are threatened by development pressures. Through this partnership, the Pacific Forest Trust has successfully acquired 1,000 acres of high priority lands. Protection of Ackerson Meadow has been among the high priority goals for Yosemite National Park for over 20 years, and the property was identified as a priority for protection in the initial *Yosemite Conservation Plan*, which Pacific Forest Trust completed in partnership with the Park in 2004. Recent discussions with the Park have confirmed that it is still very interested in working with the Pacific Forest Trust to ensure the protection of the Ackerson Meadow.

In addition, the Department of Fish and Game specifically noted the importance of the wet meadows on Ackerson Meadow for endangered species habitat, and had recommended its protection to the Wildlife Conservation Board for funding during an earlier attempt to protect the property. The Pacific Forest Trust has worked closely with the CA Department of Fish and Game regarding acquiring and managing this property.

Further, Pacific Forest Trust has met with local resident groups at the Yosemite West Community Meetings and with the local Yosemite Institute, whose mission is to provide outdoor and scientific education in the Park, to discuss our conservation plans. Both of these groups have been supportive of our efforts to protect the Park's boundaries and the historical and natural resources on parcels such as Ackerson Meadow.

**On-Going Community Involvement and Consultation.** The project team intends to continue partnerships and on-going consultations with agencies and stakeholders as we proceed with acquisition and management of this property.

**Project Opposition.** To date there has been no opposition to this project; however, we will solicit input from a range of stakeholders with interviews and public meetings to ensure that their values are integrated into the restoration plans and designs.

**Educational Opportunities.** As the project proceeds towards implementation, the intent is to provide a full docent and educational program for a range of audiences, including children, schools and communities that highlight the historical, cultural and ecological aspects of Ackerson Meadow.

**Compatibility with Other Efforts.** The protection of the open space/scenic resources, water resources, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities of Ackerson Meadow are consistent with local and regional plans such as the Sierra Nevada Resource Investment of Needs Assessment (2002), the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Strategic Plan (2002) and the Tuolumne County General plan (1996). This project is also supported by a number of other conservation organizations. For example, Ackerson Meadow was a high priority for protection in the Nature Conservancy's Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan (1999) and was included in the Audubon's Important Bird Areas - Sierra Meadows.

**Result Sharing and Replication.** Because American Rivers is a leader in the Sierra Meadows Initiative mentioned above, we are strategically placed to share results of this work, as well as to promote replication of the most promising elements. American Rivers staff is a hub in networked state and federal agencies, Universities, and other NGOs involved in meadow restoration in the Sierra. In addition, the project team is on the steering committee that sets the agenda for the annual Sierra Meadow Summit, as well as facilitates sessions and makes presentations.

## **(e) Project Design, Management and Sustainability**

This project is offered by a diverse and strong partnership and is fully capable of carrying out all aspects of project management, appraisals, landowner discussions, planning, monitoring, design and restoration to ensure successful implementation. The particular roles of the various partners are described in the workplan above. Below, we describe the organizations and the staff that will be involved in the project.

**American Rivers** will provide overall project and fiscal management, as well as technical skills. American Rivers which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year in 2010 is the leading river conservation organization in the United States ([www.americanrivers.org](http://www.americanrivers.org)) and has significant experience in successfully managing federally and state funded projects. We have a strong history of meeting reporting requirements, including completing and disseminating final technical and financial reports, managing subcontractors and partners, and providing outreach to other organizations facing similar issues or challenges. Below we describe our experiences in the last three years.

In terms of federal grants, American Rivers has received funding since 2001 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for our Community-Based Restoration Program. Under this grant, we have provided financial and technical assistance for river restoration projects benefiting diadromous fish species in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Northwest (WA, OR, ID) and California. In the 2007 Fiscal Year we received and managed \$530,100, in the 2008 Fiscal Year, \$800,355 and in the 2009 Fiscal Year, \$700,000. We report on these grants every six months, providing financial, performance, and progress measure information. In addition, we have received a grant from USEPA's Targeted Watershed Program, one from the SWRCB using ARRA funds for a stormwater management project in the Yuba Watershed, and several grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the National Forest Foundation for assessment, design and restoration work on Bear Valley Meadow and Pauley Creek Meadows.

In terms of State grants, in the 2006 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$10,000 for the Cedar Run Dam Removal and Fish Passage Engineering from the NFWF/Chesapeake Bay Grant Program. In the 2007 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$50,000 for the Darby Creek Restoration Initiative from the NFWF/Delaware Estuary Grant Program. In the 2008 Fiscal Year we were awarded and managed \$25,000 for Nicodemus Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration from the NFWF/Chesapeake Bay Program as well as \$28,680 from the FishAmerica Foundation/NOAA Restoration Center for the Ralph Stover Dam Removal and Habitat Restoration. In addition, recently, American Rivers partnered on a project entitled "Deer Creek Tribute Trail and Restoration" which was awarded \$912,000 of which American Rivers was awarded \$459,000 from the California State Resources Agency. In 2008, American Rivers received funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy in the amount of \$45,000 to improve water quality and increase aquatic function and biodiversity in Sierra rivers and creeks through trust water allocations to instream flow. In addition, in 2008, American Rivers was awarded another grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for \$107,000 for the technical design associated with restoring cultural and ecological integrity to the meadows of Bear Valley in the Bear River watershed. In these experiences, American Rivers has a proven and strong track record of developing performance measures, monitoring progress against them, and documenting achievements and expected outputs alone and in collaboration with partners. In addition, we provide on time progress and financial reporting and finish projects on time and within budget.

In terms of staff who will be dedicated to this project, [Steve Rothert](#) is the Director of the California Regional Office, and in this position, he has played an important role in several watershed management efforts, including watershed assessment and restoration planning for Deer Creek, anadromous fish reintroduction feasibility studies in the Yuba River basin, fish passage barrier removals across California, and hydropower dam relicensings in the Klamath, Feather and Yuba River basins. Steve holds a M.S. in water resources management from the University of California, Berkeley. [Elizabeth Soderstrom, PhD](#), has significant experience over the last 20 years in managing complex river restoration and management projects, including playing a leadership role in Sierra meadow restoration. She received her B.S and M.S. in Biological Sciences from Stanford University, and her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1994 in river



science. Both Steve and Elizabeth will provide technical and strategic input as this project proceeds. [Luke Hunt, PhD](#) has extensive experience in research and monitoring, has taught in experiential and outdoor settings and received his PhD from Stanford University in 2006. Luke is currently managing two meadow restoration projects for American Rivers – one on evaluating both restoration and monitoring methods for meadows in the Sierra, and the other on devising methods to integrate meadow restoration with grazing in the Sierra. Luke Hunt will serve as project manager for this project. [Bror Daniel Nysten](#), who will assist with meadow assessment for this project works to design, plan, and implement monitoring and restoration activities aimed at protecting and restoring stream ecosystems in the Sierra Nevada. He has a degree in Biology and a minor in Earth Science from UC Santa Cruz. In addition, [Sarah Regan](#), backstopped by our contract attorney and accountant in DC, will be in charge of fiscal oversight. Sarah holds a B.A. in Outdoor Recreation/Adventure Based Counseling and received her M.A. in Holistic Health Education from John F. Kennedy University.

**The Pacific Forest Trust.** Since 1993, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) has been dedicated to conserving and sustaining America's vast, productive open landscapes. As a non-profit organization working with a diverse array of partners, the Pacific Forest Trust advances innovative, incentive-based strategies to safeguard our nation's vital forests and their many public benefits. The Pacific Forest Trust has been acquiring and stewarding conservation easements and fee title properties since 1993, and was recently awarded Accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance. PFT has completed conservation projects on over 45,000 acres and has permanently conserved land valued at over \$150,000,000. PFT also conducts annual stewardship monitoring of each easement, most of which involve ongoing active forest and rangeland management. The organization currently employs over twenty staff in California, Oregon, Washington, and Washington, D.C., with five devoted entirely to conservation and stewardship activities. PFT's in-house staff has collective experience negotiating over 45 conservation transactions. The Pacific Forest Trust has five full time staff members that are devoted to conservation and stewardship activities and these staff are thoroughly trained in policies and procedures that meet and often exceed the standards and practices of the Land Trust Alliance. PFT's counsel is Bill Hutton, one of the nation's leading attorneys in the land conservation field. Megan Wargo who is the *Klamath-Cascade Program Director* holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke University and a B.A. in environmental studies, economics and policy from Claremont McKenna College. She has previously worked as a Project Manager for the Trust for Public Land's Sierra Nevada/Northern California team, a Land Protection Specialist for the Piedmont Land Conservancy in Greensboro, NC and a Stewardship Associate at the Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in Homer, AK.

**Institute for Bird Populations.** The Institute for Bird Populations is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to research and dissemination of information on the abundance, distribution, and ecology of birds, and to facilitating scientifically informed conservation of birds and their habitats. [Rodney Siegel](#), Executive Director, Rodney joined IBP as a research scientist in 1998, after completing his Ph.D. in Ecology at UC Davis. Since then he has directed IBP's Sierra Nevada Bird Observatory and its Avian Inventory Program, often collaborating with government agencies to design and conduct bird surveys and produce scientifically informed conservation and management recommendations. Rodney's current research interests include the effects of fire and fire management on forest birds, the ecology and conservation of birds dependent on montane meadows in the Sierra Nevada, the ecology and conservation of owls, and the effects of climate change on birds of western montane forests. Rodney has published scientific papers in numerous peer-reviewed journals, and serves on the Executive Steering Committee of California Partners in Flight. [Helen Loffland](#), has a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from UC Davis, and a M.S. in Biology from CSU Sacramento. She has spent the last 15 years monitoring willow flycatchers in meadows of the central Sierra Nevada and is the lead author on the widely used survey protocol for this species. In addition, she has extensive experience with multi-species surveys of meadow birds and has also spent many years conducting surveys for forest raptors, forest carnivores, plants, and fish.

Detailed Budget Form					
State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy					
<b>APPLICANT NAME:</b> American Rivers					
<b>SNC REF #:</b>					
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b> Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls					
<b>PROJECT TYPE (choose one):</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING					
SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Staff/Personnel Expense - Project Related Wages/Benefits					
American Rivers Restoration Scientist	75	hrs	\$74.97	\$5,622.75	\$5,622.75
American Rivers Senior River Scientist	120	hrs	\$41.45	\$4,974.00	\$4,974.00
American Rivers Monitoring Specialist	160	hrs	\$25.23	\$4,036.80	\$4,036.80
American Rivers Project Administrator	40	hrs	\$33.52	\$1,340.80	\$1,340.80
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$15,974.35</b>	<b>\$15,974.35</b>
Travel/Meeting Expense - Project Related					
AR staff travel	3000	mi.	\$0.50	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Per Diem (food, lodging, and miscellaneous)	10	days	\$50.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Subgrants/Contracts/Consultants - Project Related					
Pacific Forest Trust including Due Diligence (subgrant)	250	hrs	\$76.00	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00
Institute for Bird Populations (subgrant)	70	hrs	\$80.00	\$5,600.00	\$5,600.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$24,600.00</b>	<b>\$24,600.00</b>
Materials/Supplies - Project Related					
Clip Boards	4	ea.	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Field Data Sheets	100	ea.	\$0.10	\$10.00	\$10.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$110.00</b>	<b>\$110.00</b>
Equipment Leases/Purchases - Project Dependent					
RELM/BK RP6100 Two Way Radios	2	ea.	\$359.00	\$718.00	\$718.00
Hip Waders	4	ea.	\$79.58	\$318.33	\$318.33
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$1,036.33</b>	<b>\$1,036.33</b>
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement					
Pacific Forest Trust - subcontract to State-Certified General Real Estate Appraiser				\$17,000.00	\$17,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$60,720.68</b>	<b>\$60,720.68</b>
SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT*	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Performance Measure reporting					
American Rivers Senior River Scientist	60	hrs	\$41.45	\$2,487.00	\$2,487.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,487.00</b>	<b>\$2,487.00</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,487.00</b>	<b>\$2,487.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$63,207.68</b>	<b>\$63,207.68</b>

**SECTION THREE****Administrative Costs (Description - Not to exceed 15% of Project Total):**

Expenses associated with the management and administration of the organization	14.35	%	\$15,974.35	\$2,292.32	\$2,292.32
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$2,292.32</b>	<b>\$2,292.32</b>
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>				<b>\$65,500.00</b>	<b>\$65,500.00</b>

\*Unit: Enter the appropriate unit of measure (e.g., hours = hrs., months = mos., each = ea., feet = ft., miles = mi., miscellaneous = misc., package = pkg.)

<b>Project Budget Details</b>					
<b>State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy</b>					
<b>APPLICANT NAME:</b>		American Rivers			
<b>SNC REF #:</b>					
<b>PROJECT TITLE</b>		Ackerson Meadows: Keystone Habitat for Great Gray Owls			
<b>PROJECT TYPE (choose one):</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION		<input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT		<input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION	
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING	
<b>SECTION FOUR</b>					
<b>OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>UNIT*</b>	<b>UNIT COST</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Status**</b>
List other funding or in-kind contributors to project					
			\$0.00		
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>				<b>\$0.00</b>	

## 9. Performance Measures

Performance measures are critical components of the Ackerson Meadow Project. Below we provide a table that lists the performance measures that we will use to measure the progress and impact of the first activity of this project. We also recognize that these performance measures are critical to measuring progress towards SNC achieving its programmatic goals. For each performance measure, we also list targets and methods for measuring them. Costs associated with reporting on these performance measures are included in Task 1 of the project and are in the project budget.

In addition, long-term Performance Measures that could be used to measure the impact of the Ackerson Meadow Project when implemented include:

- Acre Feet Per Annum of Streamflow Improved
- Acre Feet Per Annum of Water Supply Conserved or Enhanced
- Acres of Land Improved or Restored
- Feet of Trail/Path Constructed or Improved
- Linear Feet of Streambank Protected or Restored
- Number of Significant Sites Protected or Preserved
- Tons of Carbon Sequestered

Activity I Performance Measure	Target	Methodology
<b>Performance Measures Common to All Categories</b>		
Number of People Reached	Individuals within conservation groups: 20 Resource Professionals: 5 Government Officials: 5  Total: 30	For each SNC-sponsored collaborative activity that is part of this project, we will record the number of people reached using sign-in sheets.  We will also record number of assessments distributed.
Dollar Value of Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada	Project Funds from Other Sources:  Total: \$0	For this phase of the project, we will not leverage additional funds, but for acquisition and restoration, we intend to raise funds from a range of funders, in addition to SNC.
Number and Type of Jobs Created	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services: 1.5 FTE	We will document the number of people employed, length of employment, average number of hours worked per week, and calculate FTE using number of hours worked per week x number of weeks worked divided by 2080.
Number of collaboratively developed plans and assessments	Assessments: 1	This project will develop one integrated assessments.



## 10. Environmental Setting and Impacts

At 4600 feet, Ackerson Meadow represents one of the largest mid-elevation meadows in the Sierra. Healthy mountain meadows are biodiversity hotspots. Cool consistent discharge in the summers provides excellent habitat for aquatic invertebrates, fishes, and amphibians within the meadow and downstream. Gradients in soil moisture result in a wide range of plants species which provide food and habitat for many wildlife species. The Ackerson Meadow property encompasses not only the meadow habitat surrounding Ackerson Creek, but also open hillsides and old growth forests where Great Gray Owls have been consistently observed.

**Plant Communities.** The project area is located primarily within the Yellow Pine Forest vegetation community, characteristic of areas between 610 to 1,980 m (2,000 to 6,500 ft) in elevation in the central Sierra Nevada (Munz and Keck 1959:15). Overstory species of this community include ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), Jeffrey pine (*P. jeffreyi*), sugar pine (*P. lambertiana*), incense cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), white fir (*Abies concolor*), and black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*). Common understory species include Sierra currant (*Ribes nevadense*), Sierra gooseberry (*Ribes roezlii*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos* sp.), thimbleberry (*Ribes parviflorus*), deer brush (*Ceanothus integerrimus*), and mountain misery (*Chamaebatia foliosa*).

The meadow is generally dry in summer months as a result of the dewatering of Ackerson Creek; however it still supports a wide variety of native wildflowers. As one of very few large mid-elevation meadows it is home to diverse species of rushes and sedges. Around the meadow the vegetation is typical of the Yellow Pine vegetation community. The primary trees are ponderosa pines, black oaks, and incense cedar. Along the Ackerson creek riparian plant species—most frequently willows—are common.

**Animals.** Animals that inhabit the general area are diverse and numerous. Large mammals include black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). Smaller animals include wolverine, badger, raccoon, ring tail, marmot, porcupine, and various foxes, skunks, weasels, rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, bats, birds, trout, suckerfish, squawfish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and invertebrates (Booth 1968; Storer and Usinger 1963). Unlike vegetation, animals are not tied to specific elevation or environmental zones, but tend to occupy various favorable areas in different seasons.

**Fish and Wildlife:** Ackerson Creek holds a tremendous diversity of macroinvertebrates which help support a healthy population of native rainbow trout. Anglers have reported catching rainbows over two feet in Ackerson Creek. The meadow also supports western pond turtles, which are listed as a California Species of concern. The meadow is also used by numerous species of bats, including Pallid, Townsend's Big-eared, Spotted, Western Red, and Western Mastiff (all California Species of Special Concern).

**Birds:** Ackerson Meadow's size, elevation, and diverse plant communities make it a unique and important habitat for a wide variety of birds. Many significant bird sightings have been made here, some notable for their appearance at this unexpected elevation, including nesting by Grasshopper Sparrows (a California State Species of Special Concern) and Savannah Sparrows. In addition, Ackerson Meadow is one of few mid-elevation meadows reliably used by Willow Flycatchers during the breeding season (listed by California as an Endangered Species, and as a Sensitive Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Spotted Owls nest nearby, and even a California Yellow-billed Cuckoo (listed by California as an Endangered Species and by the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 as a Sensitive Species) has been recorded in the meadow. The meadow is also used by Lawrence's Goldfinches (USFWS Bird of Conservation Concern) in the breeding season.

Perhaps Ackerson Meadow's greatest value is as critical habitat for **Great Grey Owls**. It is generally agreed that Ackerson Meadow has the highest density of great grey owls known to exist in the Sierra. The riparian meadow serves as foraging habitat while nearby old growth pines of Yosemite National Park and the Stanislaus National Forest provide important nesting and breeding habitat. With only an estimated 100 to

200 great grey owls in California (Winter 1980; Rich 2000), Ackerson Meadow's importance to the continued survival of the species in the state cannot be understated.

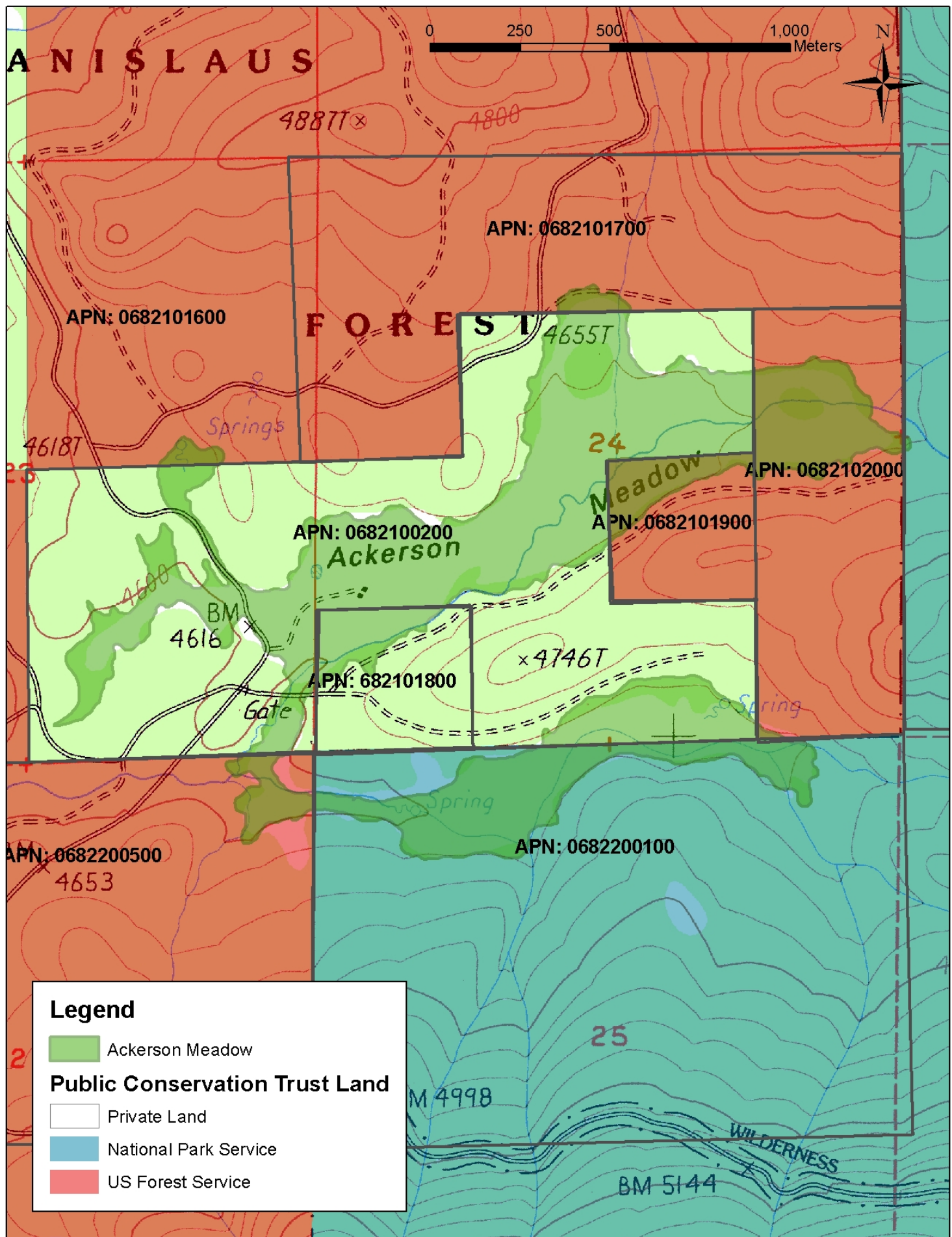
**Cultural Resources.** The project area falls within the territory of the Central Sierra Miwok. The Miwok occupied year-round villages below approximately 1,220 m (4,000 ft) in elevation, moving to higher areas during the summer (Barrett and Gifford 1933). Summer village areas were large occupation sites at higher elevations inhabited between the months of May and October, while seasonal camps were short-term occupation sites used during hunting and gathering (Merriam 1967), and provided relief from the heat of the lower elevations, while also facilitating access to seasonally available plant and animal resources. Acorns and deer were important for subsistence, along with a variety of small game, bird, fish, seeds, roots, and berries. Some plants, such as redbud, were managed (i.e. coppiced or burned) to produce the straighter branches suitable for basket making (Anderson 1988). Acorns and other seed and nut crops were stored for use in elevated structures, called *chukah*, made of twined foliage and poles. They were processed into flour by pounding with pestles in mortars, although mortars also were used to pulverize small game for older residents. It is likely that Ackerson Meadow was such a site and at least one milling station has been identified on the property.

**Current Land Use:** The Ackerson Meadow property, which is currently for sale, is zoned for timber production and is leased for grazing. With the meadow's proximity to Yosemite National Park, the greatest concern is that property will be purchased and developed into a hotel/recreation complex.

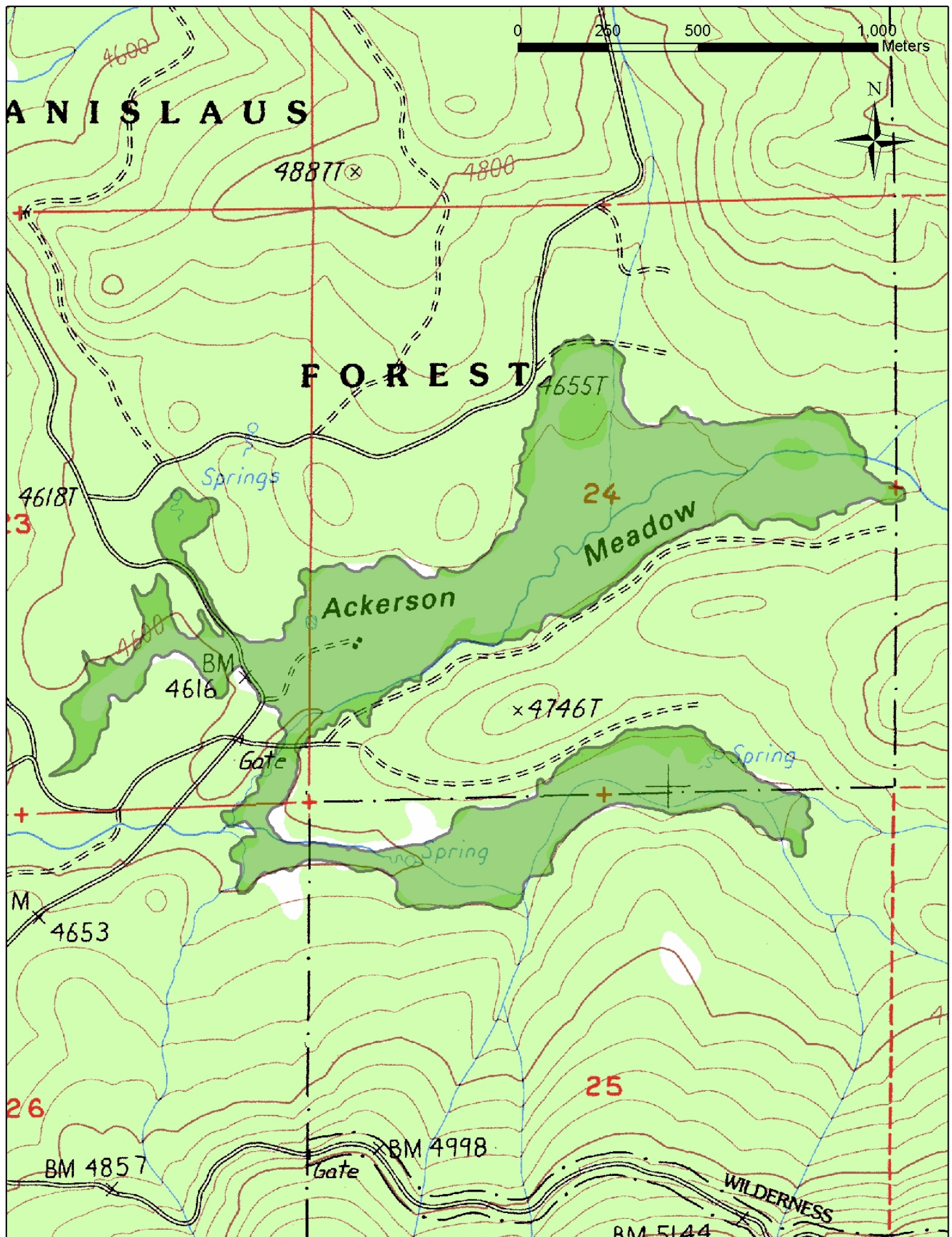
## 11. Project Location Map



12. Parcel Map Showing County Assessor's Parcel Numbers









14. Photo of Project Site





## 15. Land Tenure

The parcel is privately-owned and the owner is supportive of the appraisal, due diligence and assessment work that is proposed.

## 20. Demonstrations of Support

Graham Chisholm, Audubon California

Rodney Siegel, The Institute for Bird Populations

Megan Wargo, The Pacific Forest Trust

John Buckley, Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center





4225 Hollis Street  
Emeryville, CA 95825  
Tel. 510-601-1866  
Fax 510-601-1954  
[www.ca.audubon.org](http://www.ca.audubon.org)

September 8, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Ms. Carr,

On behalf of Audubon California and our more than 150,000 members and supporters we write to express support for the project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. We endorse the work of American Rivers and other project partners in the first phase of this project which is focused on appraisal, assessment and pre-acquisition tasks.

Ackerson Meadows is a priority acquisition and restoration project in the Sierra. The property is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek, which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. The meadow harbors a wealth of species, including many threatened and endangered species including the Great Gray Owl. It is notable that the Avian Conservation Plan for the Sierra Nevada rates the protection of montane meadows such as Ackerson as the top priority for conservation.

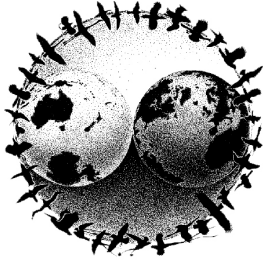
Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, the meadow is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. Failure to promptly pursue the conservation acquisition of this key parcel will very likely result in its commercial development in the near future.

We are confident in the project team's ability to collaborate successfully and we urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Graham Chisholm  
Executive Director



## THE INSTITUTE FOR BIRD POPULATIONS

P.O. Box 1346

Point Reyes Station, CA 94956-1346

(415) 663-1436 • FAX (415) 663-9482 • [www.birdpop.org](http://www.birdpop.org)

September 8, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Dear Ms. Carr:

I am writing to express The Institute for Bird Populations' support for the project, *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*. We endorse the work of American Rivers and other project partners in the first phase of this project which is focused on appraisal, assessment and pre-acquisition tasks, and look forward to collaborating with American Rivers and other project partners on the restoration of this important site.

Ackerson Meadows is a priority acquisition and restoration project in the Sierra. The property is bordered on one long side by old growth uplands in Yosemite National Park and on the other three sides by the Stanislaus National Forest. The meadow is bisected by Ackerson Creek, which flows out of the Yosemite Wilderness and quickly joins the Wild and Scenic South Fork of the Tuolumne River. The meadow complex harbors a wealth of biodiversity, including meadow-dependent threatened and endangered species.

Located on the access road to Hetch Hetchy, just minutes from the Big Oak Flat entrance to Yosemite National Park, the meadow is a prime location for an all-season hotel/recreation complex, which could be very harmful to this sensitive ecosystem. The meadow has just come on the market and the owner is eager to sell. This project is aimed at eliminating the threat of development and conserving and restoring this important property.

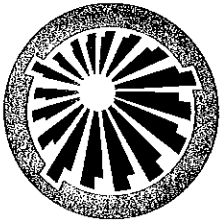
The Ackerson Meadow complex is particularly rich in birdlife, so much so that I have been taking field survey crews there in the springtime for years, to train them in meadow bird identification. I cannot think of another meadow anywhere in the Sierra Nevada that is more worthy and in greater need of targeted conservation efforts.

I am confident in the project team's ability to collaborate successfully and I urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Rodney Siegel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rodney Siegel, Ph.D.  
Executive Director



# PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

September 9, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste 205  
Auburn, California 95603

Dear Ms. Carr:

I am writing to express the Pacific Forest Trust's support for the project entitled: *Ackerson Meadow Acquisition and Restoration*.

The Property is part of a rare meadow system uniquely found at higher elevations. Nearly a mile of Ackerson Creek, a trout stream that originates in the National Park, flows through the property and then into the South Fork of the Tuolumne River. As the Creek flows through the property, it helps to create this unique wet meadow system that provides critical habitat for wildlife species and creates a link between the National Park and Stanislaus National Forest. Documented endangered-species sightings in the meadow include nesting, breeding and foraging great gray owls (*Strix nebulosa*) and willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*). The Nature Conservancy's *Sierra Nevada Ecoregional Plan* (1999) highlights this property as a high priority protection site, naming it as the highest density of great gray owls found in California.

Since 2004, the Pacific Forest Trust (PFT) has worked closely with Yosemite National Park on the *Yosemite Area Conservation Project*, to protect the Western border of the Park by purchasing significant, priority inholdings to permanently eliminate the development threats to the Park's resources. The Ackerson Meadow Property has been identified as the highest acquisition priority for PFT and Yosemite National Park. We look forward to working in partnership with American Rivers and the Tuolumne County Land Trust on the successful acquisition of this tract.

We urge the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to support this worthwhile project and we appreciate your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Megan Wargo  
Klamath-Cascade Program Director



**Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center**  
Box 396 • Twain Harte, CA 95383 • (209) 586-7440 • FAX (209) 586-4986  
Visit our website at: [www.cserc.org](http://www.cserc.org) or contact us at: [johnb@cserc.org](mailto:johnb@cserc.org)

September 10, 2010

Kim Carr, Mt. Whitney Area Manager  
Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

Dear Kim:

As you are already aware, our Center strongly supports the acquisition of the Ackerson Meadow property that lies adjacent to Yosemite Park. Our staff in the past has assisted U.S. Forest Service biologists in implementing Great Gray Owl surveys on the national forest portion of the meadow complex. I have personally seen Great Gray Owls on the property at various times, plus I have observed numerous other wildlife species using the meadow or surrounding forest habitat.

For more than a decade, our Center has attempted to collaborate with other interests to ensure that Ackerson Meadow ends up in public ownership in order to best protect its unique and impressive resource values. Various threats have arisen over the years. At one point a logging plan would have significantly reduced the suitability of the forest for nesting habitat for the owl and other closed canopy dependent species. There have been open discussions by various previous property owners of developing the site. And even now, with a property owner supposedly willing to consider a transfer to public ownership, the threat of development remains.

With this letter, our Center affirms our strong support for public acquisition of Ackerson Meadow in order to proactively acquire the property before a significant development proposal makes acquisition more difficult. It is our understanding that American Rivers and the Pacific Forest Trust are cooperating together in efforts to appraise the current market value and negotiate with the landowner. CSERC supports American Rivers grant request to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding for appraisal and pre-acquisition tasks needed to gain public ownership of this important parcel.

John Buckley, executive director